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Contact: Karen Spencer at 916.663.3723,
kspencer@ncbb.net

Story & Photos by: RMG Race Media Group

800 All America City Boulevard • Roseville, CA 95678
916.786.2023 • www.allamericanspeedway.com

Street Stock Driver Byron Gonzales owns three championships in three different divisions

Source RMG Race Media Group

30-year-old Sacramento resident Byron Gonzales drives the No. 98 RV Doctor George Street Stock at the 1/3 mile asphalt oval All American Speedway, Roseville CA. Byron has been racing since he graduated from San Juan High School in 1998. He has no family history of racers but was just a huge fan of Saturday night racing at All American Speedway. Byron and his dad Dave would attend Saturday night races and bet quarters with each other on who was going to win. As the love for the sport grew the two of them started buying pit passes to lend a hand with some teams in the pits. As they learned how race cars work and the different types of divisions, Byron bought a race-ready Street Stock to introduce to the Speedway as a new driver. Since then Byron has captured three Championships at All American Speedway; 2001 Street Stock Champion, 2003 Pro Stock Champion and 2005 Inaugural West Car Late Model Champion.

Within his three years of racing in the Street Stock division Byron has captured over a dozen main event wins and 15 fast qualifiers. Byron also won a few trophy dash wins and has come within two one-thousandths of the track record in 2001. Posting a fast time of 14.31 seconds when the track record was 14.29 seconds.

In 2002 Byron sold his Street Stock and bought a Pro Stock to race for the 2002 season at All American Speedway. Within two years racing the Pro Stock division Byron captured the 2003 track championship. Byron posted four main event wins and nine fast qualifiers along with six trophy dash victories. In 2004 All American Speedway terminated the Pro Stock division half way through the season leaving Byron and his team to experience traveling to other tracks that had the Pro Stock division.

“Everyone likes to win and I’m no exception. However, more than winning I love to race. Whether it be for the win or for 10th I love a good clean and competitive battle with someone about as fast as I am. I love any kind of head-to-head competition,” stated Byron.

In 2005 Byron sold his Pro Stock car since he wanted to support racing at All American Speedway and picked up a Late Model to compete for the inaugural West Car Late Model Championship. In the first year Byron captured the 2005 West Car Late Model Championship. In Byron's second year in the Late Model division he finished sixth in the championship points. Within the two years in the Late Model division not only did Byron received the first championship but won two main event wins and three trophy dash victories.

The team took a hiatus from racing in 2007 and 2008 due to budget and time, as the time went by without being in the driver seat Byron had the itch to get back into racing. In 2009 Byron brought out his stored Late Model and returned to All American Speedway to contest in the last six races.

In 2010 the team bought back his old championship Street Stock and brought it out for the last four races of the 2010 season. Today the team is campaigning a full season in the All American Speedway Street Stock division looking for solid finishes and hopes to add another championship under his belt. The team's 2011 racing goals are to run for the 2011 championship but are not consumed by it. Their weekly goals are first to have fun and second improve. "If you're having fun and working to improve the wins and championships will come," says Byron. The team made little to no changes in the off season leading up to the 2011 season however, during the season the team made some suspension modifications and straightened the frame which was bent in a large crash in 2003 by the previous owner. The team looks to overcome the tight operating budget.

Byron's team consists of his father Dave, wife Shannon, mom Mary, friends Richard Trundy and Ron Ricketts. Dave Gonzales plays a few different roles for the team; he is the car owner, crew chief, set up specialist, head mechanic and back up driver. Shannon Gonzales is Byron's safety support, tire manager and general pit support. Mary Gonzales is the team's video support and web master. Richard is the engine and general maintenance support and general pit support. Ron is an extra helping hand for the team. Very important is Byron's racing mentor, Hurricane Howard. Hurricane Howard is one of the most significant drivers in Byron's racing career. Hurricane Howard is always positive and respectful while perpetually pushing the limits of convention, his racecar and his abilities. Howard is a pillar of sportsmanship and competitiveness. He has taught Byron how to appreciate racing as a philosophy. "Each time before I get on the track, in the few moments I have alone, I take the advice of a great racing mentor, Hurricane Howard, and I envision myself on the track and imagine myself hitting my marks. It helps me get focused for the task at hand," explains Byron.

"The street stock division has a lot of camaraderie and respect. There are a lot of great drivers who are here for the same reason we are, to race," stated Byron on racing his Street Stock. "At the very least racing is fun. It is a game of strategy and performance. It's a physical and mental workout. What I love most is the opportunity to challenge myself to better my last performance and all the time maintain certain values and standards."

Byron Gonzales would like to thank his sponsors and supporters RV Doctor George, California Auto Body North, Matco Tools and last but not least All American Speedway and the fans. To view more about Byron Gonzales visit www.98racing.com.