

"Hello BBC Folks out there! Welcome to another epic race! Long-standing Listeners will easily recount our ever intrepid on-the-spot reporter Dexter Kent and his riveting coverage of the world captivating 1975 inaugural 'Great African Continental Sail Yacht Race' [AndyCROSSER #29]. Now of course, that brave adventurous undertaking was entirely lawful...but not so much this road race. And so, for legal prudence, Kent's blow-by-blow coverage is now here presented two months after Road Racers crossed finish line."

"This is British Broadcasting Corporation's Dexter Kent, reporting live from the Northwest United States for the exhilarating, albeit clandestine, beginning of the 1978 inaugural 'Great American Auto Rally Race'!

"Clandestine because this 'Rally Around America' is inspired by the highly illegal 70s Cannonball Runs, the no-holds-barred road races from NYC to LA -- made famous by the '76 movie "'Gumball Rally". Now, these Cannonball Runs were timed wire-to-wire events, whereas this contest is truly a Rally. Racers will generally be on the road six hours per race day, with timed Legs between cities, and then designated cities for over-nighting, socializing, repairs and modifications. And each Team can drive up to three different racecars -- for logistics, engine problems, maybe accidents...or for confusing the ever relentless, pursuant authorities.

"Wrinkle for above car-exchanges is that all four Teams must maintain their vehicle's designated color. Our Team -- Main Driver, Navigator, and Support Crew -- is the Blue Team as it happens. We compete against Green Team, the Yellow Team, and the Orange Team. As race progresses, we'll keep the Listeners abreast of the actual year and models of the participating roadsters. But alas, we can't introduce Team members.

"Another difference from the uni-directional Cannonball Runs: the 'Rally Around America' encompasses the whole continental USA, roaring in a circuit through 28 major US cities! Americans, heading your way.

"BBC colleague Janet Simms will cover the Car Rally from the air, in the seat of our Bell Star Jet-Helicopter. While I will report directly from the passenger seat in one of the participating Race Cars! Yes Folks, after legalities, after training to be a Navigator, after practicing for weeks on the track with Main Driver to be a Back-Up Driver, I, Dexter Kent, 'officially' entered this exciting -- if outrageous -- 'Rally Around America'!"

"BBC's Dexter back with our Listeners with a few Rally details. Teams are scheduled an hour apart for the start times, determined by draw, but set by Leg times hereafter. Our Blue Team drew third and we are awaiting our flag in 45 minutes. The stakes are huge, but first I should address Listeners' concern about the Blue Team with unfair BBC air tactical reconnaissance. BBC's Janet Simms, if you would respond..."

"Sky Janet with the BBC at 8,000 feet, watching the Orange Team weave their way east...and cooking through relatively heavy traffic. And yes Dex, FCC regs prohibit the media from abetting a Dexter felony."

"Thanks for dig and report, Janet. Now the huge stakes, Folks: each Team fronted a cool 2 million dollars! Winner take all...big bucks! Oh...the BBC neither invested nor will directly profit from any winnings. That disclosure from our Legal Eagles."

"Dex, we're mere humble reporters. Just looped back for your start, looks like you're up. So good luck, stay outta jail. BBC's Janet Simms...I'm out."





BLUE TEAM STATS

	City	Leg / Total (miles)	Avg / Top (mph)	Leg / Total (hours)
"Here's BBC's broadcast of the 1978 1st 'Great American Auto Rally Race'! Navigator Dexter Kent in passenger seat of a 1968 Mustang Fastback, piloted by real-racer 'Vince', awaiting our flag...we're off!" "Sky Janet swinging about, with the Space Needle to our right, and we see the Blue Team skid thru Pikes Fish Market...hook Hwy-90." [Fo. (founded) 1851, popn (population) 750 k (1000), 4th busiest US port. Intl culture, Jazz (Ray Charles), Rock (Hendrix), Grunge (Nirvana).]	1 Down	0	0	0
		0	0	0
"BBC's Kent, on I-84 just across stateline from the Wallowa Forest, hustling along at...96 mph! I trained, but this, blowing by cars as though they were parked, gets the old heart ticking. Vince looks like he's relaxing in a spa. My job: direct Vince to the route and speeds planned or improvised, monitor gauges, radio logistics to our Crew." [Fo. 1853, popn 236k, "City of Trees" due to plantings and the nearby River. Originally supplied gold miners, with Oregon Trail also nearby.]	27 Across	495	76	6.5
		495	109	6.5
"Sky Janet hovering at 8,500 ft aboard our new Jet Star, and for any punters out there, the first ticket goes to Yellow Team in their 1978 Maserati Bora, by Patrolers on N I-15 outside Idaho Falls...and off again, albeit at 55." "Janet, we're almost twice that, flying on I-90 West, and cool Vince shoots the shoulder, just rockets by log-jamb." [Fo. 1864, popn 53k, "Egypt of Montana", with St. Univ. land donated by namesake and cattle-baron John...later murdered! "Picturesque."]	20 Across	475	71	6.7
		970	105	13.2
"Hey BBC Folks! Dexter here to tell Listeners it's a pain in the butt partnering with a famous celebrity. He actually affixes a beard at the hotels. And oh my God! Our stoic Vince is actually grinning!" "Sky Janet overhead NE I-94 and Green Team in a 1976 Porsche 911. Our pilot David is spurring the jets to keep pace, close to 135 mph!" [Fo. 1872, popn 74k, named -- to draw immigrants -- for chancellor of Germany, an investor in N Pacific Railway. Once, "Missouri Crossing".]	6 Across	555	77	7.2
		1525	121	20.4
"BBC's Kent here...we timed first yesterday and chose the two-slot, the 7 am. Our flag dropped 30 mins ago and Vince has foot to the wood at 93. We'll re-use the Mustang later, but we jumped to a '77 Corvette, with 350 ci and 180 hp. Car's mostly engine." "Sky Janet over SE I-94 out of Fargo, over weaving Orange 1971 Pontiac GTO." [Fo. 1867, popn 430k, "Many Lakes Town" so named by Dakota Sioux. Bridges the Mississippi, adjoins Saint Paul. 19th-C "Flour Milling Cap."]	13 Down	430	72	6.0
		1955	113	26.4



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	City	Leg / Total (miles)	Avg / Top (mph)	Leg / Total (hours)
"BBC's Janet aboard our Bell Star on I-90 south of Madison, over parked Green Porsche, their Pit Crew. We were tracking the Orange Pontiac but caught earlier Porsche, maybe with flat tire -- but Green now off in pursuit! An inevitable head-to-head, as both Teams jump to 105! One the left shoulder, the other right, zoom, skid by traffic!" [Inc. (Incorporated) 1833, popn 2.75 mil, world's sixth busiest airport. Record 58 mil tourists in "Windy City", 2018. Teams in all pro sports.]	32 Down	410 2365	69 102	5.9 32.3
"Hello BBC Folks! Dex here racing on the longest Leg, and I'm finally driving! Doing 84 on I-89, 30 miles out of Burlington. But Vince will finish...I merely provide some downtime for long hauls. Blue Team's accrued time ranks 2nd, and Vince seems satisfied, and so...Whoa! Corvettes are squirrely! Into a power-slide, downshift, gas...got it!" [Set. (Settled) 1632, popn 68k, an active waterfront, fishing, shipping. City seal depicts a Phoenix for 4 devastating fires...one lit by fireworks!]	14 Across with 25 Across	1080 3445	83 106	13.0 45.3
"Sky Janet here overhead Hwy-1 near the New Hampshire border, overlooking the Yellow Maserati skirt I-95 at 85 mph, headed for Portsmouth. And holy cow, the draw bridge is lifting! The Maserati splinters the gate! Hurls toward the widening gap...and grabs air! Lands it! Smoothly and perfectly actually...what a reckless stunt!" [Set. 1625, popn 676k, "Beantown" due to famous baked dish. Significant in Amer. Revol. First US subway system, first large public library.]	42 Across	105 3550	76 95	1.4 46.7
"Hello BBC world! After morning jaunt and lunch, Dexter and Vince back on the pavement on I-84, 40 miles short of Hartford. What's your surprise, Janet?" "Over lunch, Vince met with our Producer: if BBC agrees to 2-month broadcast delay instead of one, he ascends to a formal introduction to our radio audience. So go for it, Dex." [Set. 1624, popn 8.8 mil, "City That Never Sleeps". The world's largest economy, mega-city, billionaire roost. Speaking over 800 languages!]	49 Across with 40 Across	215 3765	69 93	3.1 49.8
"Kent here and I'm stunned. Vince smiles, begrudges slightest of nods. And then slashes between lanes at 90 mph on the I-95 bridge! Fifty miles shy of Baltimore. Without further aplumb, I present my stalwart partner in crime to our BBC faithful: Racer at the wheel, you know him from movie 'Bullitt'...one and only...Steve McQueen." [Fo. 1791, popn 690k, swells to 1 mil for workweek. Dwellers cannot vote national elections. District named for female embodiment of US.]	63 Across with 75 Across	495 4260	76 124	6.5 56.3



BLUE TEAM STATS

	City	Leg / Total (miles)	Avg / Top (mph)	Leg / Total (hours)
"BBC's Sky Janet overhead the Orange Team -- now sporting a 1977 Pontiac Trans Am -- as the Firebird zips along Hwy-522 at 115 mph! And now two Cherry-Tops in hot pursuit! Lead Cop skids! Smashes into rail, ricochets, plows into fellow Unit! Patrolers down!" "Yikes! Calmer here, Janet. We're swerving thru congested traffic on I-95." [Fo. 1737, 226k, "River City" on the James. Site of '75 Patrick Henry's "Give Me Liberty or..." speech. World's 1st electric streetcar system.]	102 Across			
		110	61	1.8
		4370	82	58.2
"BBC's Dexter with the latest. On I-85 south of Greensboro, clocking...98 mph. Flares ahead, an accident. Steve throws a 180 spin! Tires belch smoke...Steve, hang a right here!" "I'm back...we cut-off to I-40. And Mr. Cool now looks annoyed...now amused. My trainer preached that Nav Guy tends to tech stuff, but also tends to Driver." [Set. 1755, popn 875k, "Queen City" for city's namesake. Home to the NASCAR Hall of Fame. US tops in millennial and metro-area growth.]	117 Across			
		295	78	3.8
		4665	117	61.9
"Sky Janet overhead Green Team in a new Porsche, a 1978 Carrera, speeding along at 105! On Hwy-321, 75 miles south of Columbia, and looks like a construction delay. The Porsche slides thru drizzle onto a 2-lane blacktop, ramps up speed, and now sees what I see: a train! Guns to 125! Gonna be close, air-bourne! And just clears!" [Est. (Established) 1733, popn 148k, nation's largest Historic District. "Hostess City of the South" with an old-style charm, like a movie set.]	131 Across			
		255	80	3.2
		4920	123	65.1
"BBC's Kent here with Steve, some of the other Drivers and Crew, relaxing over cocktails, reveling in the two-day break in the action. After 11 days of racing, the Blue Team is only 55 minutes behind the leading Yellow Team -- close. And remarkably, no word in the press as to our escapades -- favorable luck for us with Law Enforcement." [Set. 1858, popn 442k, cruise seaside port busiest in the world. Third largest US skyline, over 300 high-rises. "Gateway to Latin America."]	145 Across			
		490	79	6.2
		5410	126	71.3
"Janet Simms aboard the BBC's Bell Star overlooking the Yellow Team and their 1977 Aston Martin V8 Vantage, tearing at 115 mph on a quiet Hwy-27, nearing Lake Placid...what the heck!? Are those alligators crossing beyond the curve? Aston locks into a side-skid, lifts up on two wheels! Then slices cleanly thru the gator convoy!" [Set. 1823, popn 385k, so named prior to 1576 via Spanish. "De facto HQ for Pro Wrestling." Of course seafood, but heavy on Greek cuisine.]	140 Across			
		280	82	3.4
		5690	119	74.7



BLUE TEAM STATS

	City	Leg / Total (miles)	Avg / Top (mph)	Leg / Total (hours)
"Hello to our BBC Listeners! Dex and Steve barrelling along at...93, along the Gulf Coast on I-10, nearing Biloxi, Watch out for the dog! Hard crank left! Across lanes! Spinning over seawall! Disc-landing onto beach...abrupt stop! Now unflappable Steve fires it up, slings toward the shore!" "Six miles shooting rooster-tails...back on I-10." [Fo. 1718, popn 384k, "Hollywood South" due to local film industries. World renowned for distinctive music, Creole cuisine, unique dialects.]	130 Across with 92 Down	660 6350	73 113	9.0 83.8
"Sky Janet over Hwy-73 past Port Arthur, and the Orange Firebird is swerving and sliding all over the county roads, as they avoid the congested I-10. Bridges speckle the soggy bayous, and the Pontiac flies over 'em! Barely touches bridge surfaces!" "Dexter on Hwy-90. Detector chimed late and we picked up a Smokey...and pulling over." [Inc. 1837, popn 2.3 mil, 4th populous in US. Home to NASA mission control. Most ethnically diverse in US! Floods due to low elevation.]	138 Across	350 6700	69 124	5.1 88.9
"BBC's Dexter, with a ticket, still speeding, in a 1972 Dodge Charger sooner than planned -- sand condemned the Corvette to the garage. Now, our cars are heavily modified -- Steve has only a speedometer. While Navigator instruments wrap like a jet: 16 gauges, 21 switches, headsetted shortwave, police radio, radar detectors, posted charts." [Inc. 1856, popn 1.3 mil, world's larger, busier airport. 41 colleges, universities. For long time, '09 15-story Praetorian tallest west of Missip.]	135 Across	240 6940	74 115	3.2 92.1
"BBC's Janet Simms cruising at 7,500 ft, at 128 mph, following Green Carrera on N I-35 in the heart of the Chickasaw Nation, with two Tribal Patrolers in futile pursuit...and now they ease off." "Swinging to the west over I-44, we watch the Yellow Aston Martin serpentine thru traffic, nearing 115 mph. Just flew by a Patrol Car, now lit up!" [Fo. 1889, popn 681k, "The Land Run" swelled its popn to 10k within hours of founding! Since, victim to 14 major, destructive tornadoes.]	30 Down	210 7150	81 111	2.6 94.7
"Dexter Kent live from our Charger, outside Winfield on N Hwy-77, cruising at 106 clicks. Whoa...the black-top is hilly...we're taking air occasionally. The BBC should be filming us...Steve shakes his head. Is that what I think it is? Folks, a real Kansas tornado crossing our path, mile out!" "Driving cautiously now, weaving thru debris field." [Fo. 1868, popn 398k, "Cowtown" due to cattle-drives to the railroad depot. "Air Capital" due to many big-name aero industries, 1920s on.]	31 Down	160 7310	79 117	2.0 96.7



BLUE TEAM STATS

	City	Leg / Total (miles)	Avg / Top (mph)	Leg / Total (hours)
"Janet Simms overhead Orange Trans Am, huffing it at 128 mph on Hwy-36, light traffic. And she blew! The hood just exploded off the Firebird! And now she's into a side-skid...flips! A vicious rollover and somehow lands on its wheels! Driver is running around to the Navigator, who's out, cradling his arm. David, drop for a Medical-Evac!" [Inc. 1861, popn 716k, "Mile High City", average elevation four feet shy. Looming Rocky Mountains to the west and arid High Plains to the east.]	52 Across	520	81	6.4
		7830	132	103.1
"BBC and Dexter Kent here with you on Hwy-40, in the heart of the Rockies, and our Dodge Charger is flinging wildly through thickening snow. We anticipated need for chains...our Crew should be in sight soon...up ahead! Steve and I stay put in car, as Crew jacks Charger, clips chains...and we're off again! Ride is bumpy, but with traction." [Fo. 1847, popn 200k, with founder Brigham Young and Mormon pioneers. "Crossroads of the West" with the Lincoln Highway 1st of kind.]	50 Across with 69 Down	520	59	8.8
		8350	121	111.9
"BBC's Dexter here with Janet, some of the Racers, enjoying drinks and swapping stories, settling in for three down-days -- time to rest and allow for racecars to be fixed or shipped. Our tossed Navigator now sports a full-arm cast we all signed, and now smiling. But sadly, Orange Team is out, as rules state both Team members must finish." [Fo. 1905, popn 642k, named in Spanish for "The Meadows." Amidst the Mojave Desert. "World's Entertainment Capital"...lively nightlife.]	105 Across with 106 Across	420	81	5.2
		8770	125	117.1
"BBC's Janet cruising over the Green Carrera, pushing 120 mph on I-15 out of Escondido. And what! The Chippies set up a road block... word is out. The Carrera disintegrates the barrier! CHP gives chase, but the Carrera pulls away at 140 mph! ...Now Green Team yanks it over, whisks up ramp into semi, jumps into a 1977 Porsche Targa!" [Est. 1769, popn 1.39 mil, "Birthplace of California" due to first Europe visited and settled. CA second biggest...world's busiest single-runway.]	133 Across	330	79	4.2
		9100	119	121.3
"Sky Janet over Yellow Team's 3rd car, a '78 Lamborghini Countach, blazing thru medium traffic on Hwy-1, just north of Laguna Beach. Flashy sports car clings to swervy highway...just amazing to watch." "Meanwhile Janet, Steve and I thread through I-5 traffic at plodding 67. Now Steve rides the angled shoulder! We're driving diagonally!" [Pueblo 1781, popn 3.9 mil, CA biggest, US second city, world's biggest mega-city, busiest US container port. Claimed by Juan Cabrillo, 1542.]	119 Across	120	73	1.6
		9220	108	123.0



BLUE TEAM STATS

	City	Leg / Total (miles)	Avg / Top (mph)	Leg / Total (hours)
"BBC's Kent live with our steely-nerved Steve, slinging, swerving on Hwy-1, out of Big Sur. And hotly pursued by three Chippies, one on a motorcycle! Steve told me about a feint with pal, mayor-hopeful Clint. Now Steve is absolutely pushing speed, power-gliding across highway's width! And tight hook, full reverse, into garage, closed!" [Fo. 1770, popn 30k, regional capital under Spain, then Mexico, early 1800s. First CA theatre, pubic library, and funded college. Artist hub.]	95 Across	320	69	4.6
		9540	105	127.6
"For the quick, no-stunts, try-not-to-hit-motorbikes Leg on Hwy-9, BBC's Dexter Kent is driving well enough...oh...yeah, this is Reporter Steve McQueen reporting...live. Now we're back in the Mustang... Shoot the gap, Dex! Uh...yeah...back to you, Folks. Boy, I hate this." "You tried. Our Fastback plunges into Hilton garage...a hard brake!" [Fo. 1776, popn 808k, 2nd most US densest, 1st US per capita income. "The City" transformed from a hamlet due to Gold Rush in late 1800s.]	67 Across with 68 Across	120	74	1.6
		9660	109	129.2
"BBC's Sky Janet with faithful Pilot David, overhead Green Porsche Targa, sizzling at 125 on Hwy-99W, 60 miles out of Corvallis. And a steer steps onto lane, stops! Targa skids, chicanes to left! The steer trots to the left! Punch! Crunch! Sprays the steer! Porsche thrown into frantic spin, whirls thru a cattle fence! Finished, but look okay." [Fo. 1845, popn 653k, in 1900s city reputed as world's most dangerous port. "City of Roses" due to an ideal climate and a large public garden.]	35 Across	635	82	7.7
		10295	126	137.0
"Kent and whole BBC Crew heap praise on colleague Mr. McQueen. Moving on, the rules state the last Leg is live. Blue Team 27 minutes behind Yellow...we start 27 minutes after. First to Finish takes all! ...On cop radio, the Lamborghini is marked, maybe not us." "A road block! We switch drivers, Steve plays asleep, thru!" "Steve driving... and Folks we're smoking at 132! On I-405 sprinting to Mercer Island! Lamborghini slings to our left! Steve nails sixth gear! Blue takes it!"	1 Down Finish Line	175	83	2.1
		10470	137	139.1



"Well BBC Folks, I hope you enjoyed our complete coverage of the 1978 'Rally Around America'! Until the next race, here's Dexter Kent signing for now. Also now, I'm speeding over to a raucous Race Party on the Needle!"

ACROSS

1	SNL Gil: "What's deal with ___ and violins?"
3	Tub for foot-squished grapes
12	(with "ee") Hook pardner
18	What actual Racers live for
21	What movie Racers live for: ___ - mo!
22	Sets
26	Top-rating often [tricky, this one!]
28	Martini specification
29	___ Paulo
31	Crew Chief: "Latch! ___ up into Semi!"
34	Alpha-Soup for texters' "you Already Know"
38	What Racers call column of go-lights
41	Stills and Crosby chum
43	Shared same joke
44	Blamable sorts
45	Nickname for Scrooge
46	Minimize-effort sort
48	112-Down in Paris
54	Tap tip
55	"Gimme" request
57	St. of Allentown
58	Lasso
60	Fat foot size
61	Lil devil
71	Alpha-Soup for monkeyed-with plant
73	What Racers need to adjust engine
74	Alphabet trio
77	Native tribe in North Calif. near Blue Lake
79	Once the price of a phone call or a coffee
80	Caesar's stage
82	Phone or kissing locale
83	Lightest of inquiries
84	It's human, devine to forgive
86	Capt. wannabe
87	Specializer of 11-Down
90	Sweater tree
92	What Racers exchange at day's end
93	Initials for loo
94	Steer: "I really need some hay!"
98	Tijuana more
99	(with "sy") Street sort
100	Burns
104	Imaginative application

DOWN

2	Newsy cash cow
3	Open space or break in continuity
4	Alpha-Soup for AriZona Silver exploration
5	Enforceable strength
6	Poor art purveyor
7	Memo opener
8	St. of Biloxi
9	And
10	What MGM's "Leo" does for work
11	Specialty of 87-Across
12	Enjoy scenery and gravity at its finest
14	Umps are all about fussing with this
15	Chain-sawed hardwood art of night flyer?
16	ER hero
17	QB's statistics
18	Quaff booze like a nun
19	Smelly bar?
20	"Name's __ , __ licensed-to-kill kinda guy."
23	Govt. money-type autos?
24	Alpha for Southwest High School (1st up!)
27	Anyone who hoops for Warriors or Kings
33	Hitter's stat
34	Amer. seacrafts with their army member?
36	"Ye nay sow seed? Ye shalt __ __ crop!"
37	Four-wheeler hangout
39	Not the "Color of Money" in accounting
40	(after "bus") One who's industrious
44	Offensive NFL bruiser good at catching
45	Famous apple muncher
47	Shakespeare's humorous " __ You Like It"
51	Arouses or inspires
53	Lube again
56	"That smells!"
57	Ratio of circumference to diameter
58	I __ __
59	Unfavorable
62	Cop lingo for crime habits
64	Flashy automobile head-to-head?
65	Used for thumbing a ride in December?
66	Father: "It's time. __ __ and prosper!"
68	Garrison
70	Coal stratum
72	Some folks really put <i>this</i> on their face!

ACROSS

107	Racer Steve, for example
108	N A __ __
109	Periods of the past
110	"I see the answer!"
113	Hasten
114	Semi-aquatic salamander or Gingrich
116	24 hours of __ Mans
121	Two prefix
122	Alpha for protein Receptor tYrosine Kinase [?]
124	Pompous events
126	Overcame
127	What Racers cross
128	Initials of main actor in "American Graffiti"
129	Initials of main actor in "Gladiator"
134	Bond's designation to kill
137	Bird family with short wings, upright tail
144	What crashed Racers get knocked out

DOWN

76	Ribbon or egg, for example
78	Cigarette specifications
81	Immensely large
85	Unc or sis, for example
88	Swank
89	"Understand."
91	Alpha for Resources for Human Develop.
94	Nearly
95	One who tells Kid: "Go ask 143-Down."
96	Spoken
97	Dumped
101	Alpha-Soup for early social platform
102	Cheers
103	Lunar army member?
108	Threatening look
111	Continent with highest, lowest altitudes
112	48-Across in New York
113	Sandwich or savior sort
115	Dried plants wrapped like a Life-Saver
118	Top rating often
120	Swedish-American actress Margret
121	Drivel
123	Ovens for coffe cups
125	St. of Dover
131	(with 141-Down) Crossed the river
132	(backwards) 70s TV show with Hot Lips
134	"I'm disappointed."
135	Alpha for Dick's Sporting Goods (1st up!)
136	Bunch
139	Initials for employee safety net
141	(see 131-Down)
142	...re, __ , fa...
143	One who tells Kid: "Go ask 95-Down."