

**Press Release**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

There was a real Cannonball Run?

**Documentary about the legendary outlaw LA to NY dash in production, seeks help from 1970s fans that were there**

Mention The Cannonball Run, and most will come up with something they love remembering about it. “Burt Reynolds beat everyone in his Bandit Trans Am.” “No, he was driving a fake ambulance smuggling beer!” “Two girls in a black Lamborghini won!” “Wasn’t it white – or red?” “Some rich guys still run it.”

None of the above is true – many recall snippets of fiction from going to the movies, renting a VHS or watching TV. But as with all really great legends, there lies a truth behind...

The real Cannonball run was the Cannonball Baker Sea-To-Shining-Sea Memorial Trophy Dash, an illegal road race from coast to coast organized by motor journalist Brock Yates, as protest and proof Interstate speed limits were too low. In irregular intervals from 1971 to 1979 he invited a select cabal of contestants, running everything from Ferraris to pickup trucks. Being an unsanctioned event veiled in secrecy, few were there to witness it, and even fewer remember today that it really happened...

Recently an original Cannonballer’s large stash of photography and reports from the real 1970s race was rediscovered in Germany. The Yates family got involved, and now a feature documentary is being filmed.

The documentary filmmakers are asking all of you:

Who was at the

- Cannonball Start (Red Ball Garage, Manhattan, NY or Lock, Stock & Barrel, Darien, CT),
- Cannonball Finish (Portofino Inn, Redondo Beach, CA),
- Parade lap (US Grand Prix West, West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, CA)
- or anywhere in between

and has pictures, audio, film footage, home video tape, or just remembers the events?

In the old photos there are several pros and amateurs holding cassette recorders, Super 8 film cameras and even early video camcorders. Time to check your basement or attic now and see if you or your (grand)parents can contribute to this great American story!

And which of the Cannonball cars and trucks survived? To name one, the fake ambulance "Transcon Medi-Vac" in the movie really had run in the 1979 Cannonball and fooled the cops. Where it is today remains a mystery. Forgotten in a barn somewhere, or gone to a better place – without speed limits?

Tips: Please contact [gh@motorreporters.com](mailto:gh@motorreporters.com)

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For more information please contact  
Gero Hoschek, MotoRReporters, [gh@motorreporters.com](mailto:gh@motorreporters.com), skype: gero.hoschek  
Daniela Schaaf, German Sport University Cologne, [schaaf@dshs-koeln.de](mailto:schaaf@dshs-koeln.de),  
<http://danielaschaaf.com>

Follow us for great unseen vintage stuff and updates about the Cannonball documentary production. Please support us by linking and sharing with hashtag [#realcannonballrun](#):

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## Images

Download images at: <http://bit.ly/1RShDNH>

West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, CA, April 8, 1979: Lineup for a parade lap of real Cannonball Run racers at US Grand Prix West. Where are these vehicles today? © 1979 Gero Hoschek

Lock, Stock & Barrel, Darien, CT, April 1, 1979: Brock Yates briefs Cannonballers before starting the coast to coast race. Were you or someone you know there filming, recording or photographing? © 1979 Gero Hoschek

Beachbum Burt's, Redondo Beach, CA, April 3, 1979: Trophies at Cannonball victory banquet. Who was there? © 1979 Gero Hoschek

West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach, CA, April 8, 1979: Film director Hal Needham, Cannonballer Pam Yates, Actress Tara Buckman. Fake ambulance "Transcon Medi-Vac" Dodge Sportsman. Has it survived somewhere? © 1979 Gero Hoschek

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