



SILK WAY 2022 RALLY 丝绸之路拉力赛



LEG 4. Astrakhan - Grozny

It happens very rarely in the Russian cross-country rallies. When else two completely new regions were simultaneously plotted on the map of this racing discipline? The organizers of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally did it. Moreover, the rally came to the very interesting places – to the Chechen Republic and the Republic of Dagestan. However, the novelty of the regions did not affect the bitterness of the fight and the complexity of the track – today there has been plenty of both.

Vasilyev's hat-trick

Fans and spectators of the 2022 Silk Way Rally are gradually getting used to the success of the crew of Vladimir Vasilyev and Alexey Kuzmich from the Vasilyev Racing team. And today the crew has been second to none, they even managed to get ahead of the KAMAZ-master team drivers in the overall standings and set the best time among all competitors. The third victory in a row allowed the St. Petersburg driver and his Moscow co-driver to increase the lead over the nearest rival by fifteen minutes.

Their closest rivals Denis Krotov and Konstantin Zhiltsov are an experienced crew. Therefore, the second position – both after the fourth special stage completion and in the overall standings, is rather not the most fortunate situation than a regularity.

Today's struggle in the T1 standings reduced to the confrontation between Vasilyev and Krotov with the GAZ Raid Sport team crews of Alexander Rusanov and Evgeny



Sukhovenko. Unfortunately, on the first days of the Silk Way Rally the factory team drivers lagged far behind the leaders, and now their main task is a confident drive to the finish line and, if possible, a high result. At the finish of the fourth special stage Rusanov was third, four minutes ahead of his teammate.

Andrey Rudskoy, who retired on Saturday due to a broken engine, has not started today. But it is possible that on Monday he will take the opportunity to return to the battle, although he got hundreds of penalty hours.

According to the four special stages results, Vladimir Vasilyev increased his lead over Denis Krotov. Alexander Rusanov secures the third position, ahead of his teammate Evgeny Sukhovenko.

Victory in turns

There are regular victories, as in the case of Vladimir Vasilyev, the T1 category leader. And there are victories in turns. Alexey Cherkesov set the best time at the first and third special stages of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally, and his brother Dmitry Cherkesov won the second and fourth ones.

But the main news of the fourth day of the rally was another event that had nothing to do with the success of the Cherkesov brothers. Sergey Karyakin spent the first three competitive days in the shadow of his Snag Racing teammate Nikita Mazepin. But today he proved that he still has a shot in the locker.

Perhaps this is a passion to win – it is only told at the bivouac that the student surpassed his master – but today Karyakin set the second time, beating Mazepin, who became only the fourth, by more than seven minutes. Dmitry Mordkovsky finished the special stage with the third result, between them.

According to the four competitive days results, Dmitry Cherkesov is in the lead. Nikita Mazepin secures the second position, while Sergey Karyakin, who has accelerated, is the third.

And who will win tomorrow – Cherkesov or Cherkesov?

Double strike of Lady Fortune

The new territory for the Russian cross-country rallies did not seem to affect the luck of the MAZ-SPORTauto factory team drivers – Sergey Vyazovich and Alexey Vishnevsky punctured the wheels again, solved problems with the electrics and, as a result, could not win the fourth stage. But for the KAMAZ-master team the situation has slightly changed – two trucks topped the standings at the end of the fourth special stage of the Silk Way Rally, but two more stopped at the track and lost a huge amount of time.



БОЛЬШЕ ЧЕМ ГОНКА, ЯРЧЕ ЧЕМ ПРИКЛЮЧЕНИЕ!

Today Andrey Karginov and Sergey Kupriyanov have been pursued by ill luck. The rivals who arrived at the finish line said that they saw Karginov's KAMAZ standing in a puddle of leaked engine oil. Sergey Kupriyanov also faced technical problems – the left front wheel hub broke. The repair took about three and a half hours.

Dmitry Sotnikov won the Sunday special stage. Eduard Nikolaev achieved the second score, having lost about ten minutes to the leader. The third was Sergey Vyazovich – he was about seventeen minutes behind Sotnikov.

There are four special stages behind. The leader of the Truck standings is Dmitry Sotnikov, who is pursued by Eduard Nikolaev and Sergey Vyazovich.

Catch up with Maximov?

This is a utopia. The fans who follow the fight in the Quad standings witnessed it again. The reigning winner of the Silk Way Rally left no chance for a better result for his rivals. Alexander Gilemov was second at the finish line, and Dmitry Kalinin was third.

There is a similar situation in the Moto category – Aleksey Naumov dominates here. Today, just like yesterday, he has left Evgeny Tikhonov and Alexander Gatiyatulin behind.

A small part that costs a lot

Gear change mechanism. It is not the engine, not the gearbox. But it was this breakdown that cost Dmitry Voronov the second consecutive victory at the special stages of the 2022 Silk Way Rally. At the very beginning of the Sunday special stage the crew lost about forty minutes for the field repairs.

Then an experienced and fast Petersburger managed to win back part of the gap, but he was only the second in the T2 production standings.

Shamyrat Gurbanov from Turkmenistan was the special stage winner, and his teammate Maxatmyrat Danatarov came third.

Learning the cross-country rallies secrets

Today the competitors of the new "Following Peter the Great" Grand Tour category that is held as a part of the Silk Way Rally for the first time have learned to drive according to the schedule of regular driving. The finish of the Sunday route was organized in one of the spectator zones of the fourth special stage. The competitors of "Following Peter the Great" Grand Tour standings had the opportunity to enjoy the struggle in the main standings of the Silk Way Rally, then a welcoming concert was organized for them by local artists.



БОЛЬШЕ ЧЕМ ГОНКА, ЯРЧЕ ЧЕМ ПРИКЛЮЧЕНИЕ!

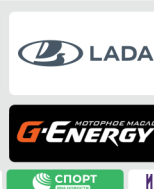
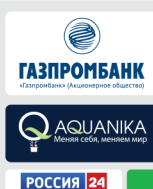
Welcome to the Chechen Republic!

This time the nightly briefing that is held by the organizers of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally has become a special event. Zelimkhan Akhmadov, the First Deputy Minister of the Chechen Republic for Physical Culture and Sports, addressed the race competitors with a welcoming speech, wishing success to all the crew. In response Vladimir Chagin, the Event Director of the Silk Way Rally thanked the hospitable Chechen people for the warm welcome.

What to expect tomorrow?

On the fifth day of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally the competitors will tackle a circle leg along the Grozny-Grozny route with a total distance of 298 km and competitive distance of 218 km.

The support of automotive partners is especially important for Silk Way Rally, these are the automobile plants **Kamaz**, **AvtoVAZ**, **GAZ**, **URAL** and **Chery**. We would like to thank our technical partners – **Greenworks**, **Yamaguchi**, **Soglasie Strakhovanie** Insurance Company, as well as **Aquanika**, the official partner for water and innovative drinks, and **Tassay**, a brand of premium quality natural drinking water from a deep source in an ecologically clean region of the foothills of the Western Tien Shan in Kazakhstan.



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