



SILK 2022 RALLY WAY 丝绸之路拉力赛



LEG 9. Volgograd – Lipetsk

The penultimate day of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally was the longest one for the entire 2022 race – the route of the special stage was laid from Volgograd to Lipetsk, with a total distance of 773 kilometers.

Krotov doesn't give up!

Even the most daring experts could not have imagined such an overcome of the struggle in the Car standings of the 2022 Silk Way Rally. Vladimir Vasilyev, who was confidently leading most of the rally route, suddenly lost time a few days ago due to a gearbox breakdown and let his main rival Denis Krotov go ahead. Yesterday Vasilyev started to push hard and won back a significant part of the backlog, but Krotov is not going to give up without a fight. He convincingly proved it at today's ninth special stage.

At the finish line of Friday's special stage Vasilyev was the fastest once again, but he was only seven minutes ahead of the MSK Rally Team driver. However, it was not enough to get ahead. According to the results of nine special stages, Krotov is ahead of Vasilyev by a little over two minutes. The final day distance is 118 kilometers. Can the pursuer catch up with the leader? We will know the answer tomorrow.

Alexander Rusanov and Evgeny Sukhovenko, two other competitors of the T1 category, faced serious problems again. The Muscovite got stuck in the sand and lost more than



three hours, and the Rostovite laid his GAZelle on its side and was forced to wait for help – the loss to Vasilyev was more than an hour and a half.

Nifontova wins, Mazepin increases lead

It seems, the main contender for victory in the SSV standings of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally, is determined: Nikita Mazepin. Yes, he achieved the second score once again, but he lost only to Anastasia Nifontova, who is not fighting for a place on the podium this year.

The 2022 Silk Way Rally debutant has outstripped all other rivals. Armen Puzyan finished SS9 with the third result. Sergey Karyakin was the fourth, and Dmitry Mordkovich rounded out the top five.

Sotnikov is on the way to the fourth victory

Yesterday Dmitry Sotnikov regained his leadership in the Truck standings of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally – his rival Eduard Nikolaev broke one of the fuel tanks, and thus the fuel supply ran out. As a result, the KAMAZ-master team driver completed the stage, but lost a lot of time, and according to Thursday results, Sotnikov led the rally with a comfortable gap of 56 minutes.

But today Sotnikov seems to have forgotten about it and instead of switching to the safety mode, he started to push hard again. We would have seen another duel between Sotnikov and Nikolaev, but after overcoming the ford the gearbox of Nikolaev's truck didn't work properly – the crew could only use the fourth gear. Of course, they began to gradually fall behind the group of leaders and finished SS9 the third in the Truck standings, twenty minutes behind Sotnikov, who set the best time.

Sergey Kupriyanov is on the second place, between Sotnikov and Nikolaev – this is the best result for the gas-diesel KAMAZ driver for the entire rally. Andrey Karginov was the fourth, Mikhail Shklyayev finished the fifth, Alexey Khlebov came the sixth.

Unfortunately, the bad luck of the MAZ-SPORTauto factory team at the 2022 Silk Way Rally has already become daily news. To begin with, Alexey Vishnevsky started at SS9 with an engine that had serious problems. To support his teammate Sergey Vyazovich stopped after the start and followed him, and this tactic paid off. At the only ford Vishnevsky's MAZ stalled – the engine was flooded with water. Vyazovich pulled the second truck ashore, and the crew began to analyze the situation. The verdict was given quickly enough – nothing can be done, it's a retirement.

Sergey Vyazovich drove to SS9 finish and achieved the seventh score. Alexander Laguta took the eighth and last place at the finish line.



MORE THAN RALLY, ABSOLUTE ADVENTURE!

Voronov's hat-trick

The third consecutive victory at the special stages of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally confirms the conclusion that Dmitry Voronov, the T2 standings competitor, plays in his league – though only if his car does not let him down. He won SS9 with a margin of almost half an hour from Shamyrat Gurbanov, who set the second time. Merdan Toylyev became the third.

Gurbanov won back one minute from Toylyv, and now seven minutes separate them in the fight for victory in the T2 standings at the end of the entire rally.

Loneliness of the winners

Riders leading in the Moto and Quad categories won SS9 – motorcyclist Alexey Naumov broke away from the nearest rival for another half an hour. This time it was Alexander Gatiyatulin.

Quad rider Dmitry Kalinin became the only competitor at the start in the morning. Alexander Maximov retired yesterday, and Alexander Gilemov was forced to take the so-called Joker leg again and skip another stage in accordance with the conditions of the rally sports regulations.

Learning through good examples

Today competitors of the new "Following Peter the Great" Grand Tour category, which is held as a part of the Silk Way Rally for the first time, spent the day watching the struggle in the main standings of the race. The organizers laid out a route to the ford that was passed by the Truck standings competitors. Having looked with interest at the passage of the route by all cars, SSVs, trucks, as well as motorcycles and quads, the competitors of the new "Following Peter the Great" Grand Tour category drove in road mode to the rally bivouac in Lipetsk.

What to expect tomorrow?

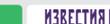
The final day of the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally will be held along the Lipetsk-Moscow route. The total distance is 513 km and the competitive distance is 118 km.

The Ceremonial Finish of the 2022 Silk Way Rally will take place in the evening at the Luzhniki Olympic Complex, with the support of the Department of Sports of Moscow. The bright solemn ceremony will emphasize the role of the rally marathon in the sports life of the country, and, as before, will attract tens of thousands of fans who dream of personally greeting the most titled racers in the world and seeing unique cars that have covered the entire route for more than four and a half thousand kilometers.



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This year **Chery**, one of the most popular and best-selling cars in Russia, have become the official car of the 2022 Silk Way Rally, helping the organizers to solve various logistical tasks. The car combines excellent off-road qualities with high level of safety and comfort, those qualities that inspire confidence in vehicles both in urban environment and off-road conditions.



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