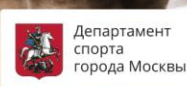




# SILK WAY 2022 RALLY

## 丝绸之路拉力赛



## 2022 Silk Way Rally: new era

The 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally ended on July 16 in Moscow. The Ceremonial Finish of the 2022 Silk Way Rally was held at the Luzhniki Olympic Complex with the support of the Moscow Department of Sports. Having started ten days ago from Astrakhan to a journey of almost four and a half thousand kilometers, the race competitors passed all the tests with honor and received well-deserved prizes.

### Sotnikov's new record

In 2021 Dmitry Sotnikov, the KAMAZ-master team driver, won the Silk Way Rally in the Truck category, setting a record that seemed incredible – he became the first three-time winner in the race history. However, only a year has passed and Sotnikov secured the fourth victory. But do not think that the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally was a cakewalk for the record holder.

In the very beginning of the race completely different drivers were the the Truck standings leaders. At first, Eduard Nikolaev (KAMAZ-master) staked out the first position. Sergey Vyazovich (MAZ-SPORTauto) took the lead at the second special stage. Then it was the turn of Andrey Karginov (KAMAZ-master). The name of Dmitry Sotnikov appeared on the first line of the Truck standings only after the fourth special stage.



To be overthrown by Eduard Nikolaev at the next special stage! Moreover, the attack of the most titled "blue armada" driver was so devastating that no one could dislodge him from the conquered position. Except for the truck that interposed in the matter. A broken shock absorber punctured the main reserve fuel tank, causing a fuel leak. So the crew of Nikolaev could not get to the finish line of the special stage, which led to a loss of time and leadership.

After such a gift Dmitry Sotnikov only had to drive for the victory and he did it in a manner that benefits everyone. Eduard Nikolaev took the second place. The third was Sergey Vyazovich, for whom the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally was one of the most difficult trials in his entire racing career.

If you try to list all the troubles that have fallen on the heads of the MAZ-SPORTauto team crews, then even a few pages of text will not be enough. However, the main problem that led to huge losses of time, was tires. It is not known for certain what led to so many problems with rubber, but the wheels overheated, the tread peeled off and, as a result, destructed completely. In the second half of the race distance the specialists of the Belarusian team seemed to have found a solution and the wheels stopped exploding so often, but a new misfortune immediately followed - the body superstructures of both trucks began to fall apart. And the streak of bad luck ended with a water hammer in the engine of Alexey Vishnevsky's truck on the penultimate day of the race.

Alexey Khlebov and Mikhail Shklyayev from the GAZ Raid Sport team were able to tap into the struggle between KAMAZ and MAZ trucks and finished the race in fourth and fifth places, respectively.

Sergey Kupriyanov, who led the latest version of a gas-powered sports truck to the start for the first time, finished the Silk Way Rally in sixth position. Alexander Laguta and Andrey Karginov finished with the seventh and eighth results.

### **Krotov's first victory**

The fate of the victory in the Car standings was sealed on the last day – Saturday was really dramatic. Vladimir Vasilyev led the race for many days, but then he let Denis Krotov go ahead due to technical problems. After that he increased the pace so much that it was impossible to maintain it without making mistakes.

As a result Vasilyev went off the track at the beginning of the tenth special stage, rolled over and torn off a wheel that did not allow him to continue the fight.

In the absence of such a strong opponent, the GAZ Raid Sport drivers team Alexander Rusanov and Evgeny Sukhovenko climbed the podium.



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## All-around talented

It is said that there are no ordinary drivers in Formula 1. Everyone who gets there is the best of the best. Russian Nikita Mazepin convincingly proved that he is doing well with talent. Throughout the Silk Way Rally he gradually increased his pace and eventually won in his debut start!

Armen Puzyan managed to defend the second position in the fight against Sergey Karyakin. The Uralian acted as a support crew for Nikita Mazepin, but at the end of the race Karjakin began to rise the pace and tried to get ahead of Puzyan. However, he failed to do this – Sergey Karyakin remained the third.

Dmitry Mordkovich and Kirill Chernenkov rounded out the top five. The next are Evgeny Frezorger, Anastasia Nifontova and Oleg Manokhin.

## Debutants set pace

Debutants Alexey Naumov and Dmitry Kalinin won the Moto and Quad standings respectively. The situation could have been completely different, if it's not for the fall of Alexander Maximov, the main favorite of the Quad standings. Last year's winner was on his way to a second consecutive victory, but an offensive incident put an end to his ambitions. As a result, Kalinin won, Maximov became the second.

But in the Moto standings Alexey Naumov went to victory from the very beginning. The rest of the rivals fought behind his back, but no one could get involved in the fight with the leader.

## Legend comes back

Production standings has not been in great demand among drivers in recent years. But the 12th edition of the Silk Way Rally gave hope to the fans of these cars once again – five crews started. Moreover, four of them were from Turkmenistan, and one was Russian: LADA NIVA Legend driven by Dmitry Voronov and Evgeny Zagorodnyuk. And this new power could completely destroy the resistance of rivals, because a team backed by AVTOVAZ has returned to the cross-country rallies!

However, a new car usually has teething problems. And, unfortunately, the crew could not avoid them. As a result, at the very beginning of the race Voronov lost a huge amount of time and, despite a series of several victories at the special stages, he failed to reach the top three.

Merdan Toylyev became the winner in the production standings. The second place went to Shamyrat Gurbanov, Maxatmyrat Danatarov became the third. Dmitry Voronov with his LADA is on the fourth position.



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## **"Following Peter the Great" Grand Tour finished**

Competitors of the new "Following Peter the Great" Grand Tour category, which was held as a part of the Silk Way Rally for the first time, finished their multi-day journey. For ten days they drove along a certain very interesting rally route sticking to average speed limits, registered at the checkpoints, lived at the rally bivouacs, met motorsport stars, watched the struggle of the Silk Way Rally competitors. In addition, they were taught the tricks of cross-country rallies, as well as navigation and off-road driving.

### **FINAL CLASSIFICATION:**

#### **In cross-country rally "T1 over 1000 km" sports discipline**

1. Krotov Denis / Zhiltsov Konstantin, Mini John Cooper Works Rally, 32:07:58
2. Rusanov Alexander / Pavlov Evgeny, GAZelle NEXT, +11:24:31
3. Sukhovenko Evgeny / Chapaev Kirill, GAZelle NEXT, +42:06:42

#### **In cross-country rally "T2 over 1000 km" sports discipline**

1. Toylyev Merdan / Toylyev Shorkhat, Nissan Patrol, 48:47:25
2. Gurbanov Shamyrat / Gurbanov Mujhammetmurat, Nissan Patrol, +0:07:47
3. Danatarov Maxatmyrat / Orazmedov Didar, Nissan Patrol, +3:59:44

#### **In cross-country rally "T3 over 1000 km" sports discipline**

1. Mazepin Nikita / Vlasyuk Anton, Can-Am Maverick Max XRS Turbo RR, 34:54:36
2. Puzyan Armen / Shubin Kirill, Can-Am Maverick XRS, +0:34:20
3. Karyakin Sergey / Bezdenezhnykh Ivan, Can-Am Maverick XRS, +0:34:58

#### **In cross-country rally "T4 over 1000 km" sports discipline**

1. Sotnikov Dmitry / Akhmadeev Ruslan / Akhmetzyanov Ilgiz, KAMAZ 43509, 31:33:54
2. Nikolaev Eduard / Yakovlev Evgeny / Karimov Bogdan, KAMAZ 43509, +1:10:04
3. Vyazovich Sergey / Garanin Pavel / Murylev Vitaly, MAZ 6440RR, +6:32:33

#### **In cross-country rally "Overall over 1000 km" sports discipline**

1. Krotov Denis / Zhiltsov Konstantin, Mini John Cooper Works Rally, 32:07:58
2. Mazepin Nikita / Vlasyuk Anton, Can-Am Maverick Max XRS Turbo RR, +2:46:38
3. Puzyan Armen / Shubin Kirill, Can-Am Maverick XRS, +3:20:58

#### **In cross-country rally "Open" sports discipline**

1. Goloushkin Alexander / Rusinov Pavel, Can-Am Maverick RR, 38:03:33
2. Malikov Vladislav / Kudinov Stanislav, Can-Am Maverick RR, +0:07:46

#### **In sports discipline "Cross-country 450"**

1. Naumov Alexey, KTM 450 Rally Replica, 137:02:57



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### In sports discipline "Enduro quads"

1. Kalinin Dmitry, Can-Am Outlander Max XTP 1000 EFI, 156:48:21

### In sports discipline "G-MOTO"

1. Pavlenko Oleg, KTM 450 EXC, 145:51:27

### In "Following Peter the Great" Grand Tour category

1. Sorochinsky Pavel / Buylov Peter
2. Hou Hongning / Shen Xin / Amatykh Robert
3. Kupriyanov Peter / Starostin Daniil

**GAZPROM PJSC**, a global energy company, has been with Project for many years.

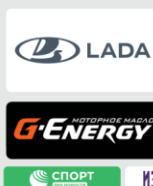
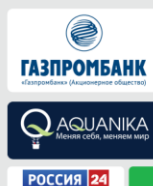
Silk Way Rally have been choosing the **Gazprom Neft filling station** network as the rally's fuel partner for several years in a row for its high quality indicators. Today this cooperation has grown into a whole program that operates throughout the year, and not just during the days of the rally. These are large online, tourism and social projects that start along with the rally and continue to operate after the finish of the race. Each edition is a new stage and a new project that complements all previous ones.

Traditionally, from year to year, the Gazprom Neft filling station network helps organizers and competitors to solve key technical, sports and domestic issues. Technical support for the teams is provided by G-Energy – Gazprom Neft's high-tech brand of lubricants. All bivouacs of the Silk Way Rally will have a **G-Energy** mobile laboratory, whose technical experts will help team mechanics monitor the condition of all vehicles during the rally. The data obtained in the races allows specialists to improve products and form the basis of new recipes.

We also highly appreciate the contribution of **Gazprombank**, our financial partner and one of the largest universal banks in Russia, to the development of rallying and motorsport in general.

Particular thanks to our media partners. This year **MATCH TV, Russia 24, NTV, 360** federal TV channels continue their cooperation with rally; an information support is also provided by the **Izvestia** multimedia information center and IZ.RU TV channels 5TV and Ren TV. We are pleased to note that our long-term cooperation with the **Rossiia Segodnya** media group continues. For the first time **Tricolor**, the multiplatform operator of the digital environment, and **RUTUBE** became the information partners.

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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