



Dakar News



Close Encounter at the Dakar: Charly B. meets ex-snowboard world champion in the desert



11th January 2007, in the Zouerat bivouac

It was the longest stage of the rally: by the end of the day, almost a thousand kilometres had been clocked up! Under normal circumstances this route is a pretty tough one already, but that day a sandstorm and rain made it even more difficult. So we expected competitors to arrive late for technical advice and practical help at our stand.

At around 8 p.m., an Austrian biker visited us, looking for some FIX & REPAIR TAPE and our LOCTITE® 248 Medium Strength Threadlocker Stick.

His name: Martin Freinademetz, Dakar biker no. 78. When I asked him if he was any relation of the famous Austrian ex-snowboard world champion, he told me that he himself was the champion! As a big bike fan he had for years dreamed of taking part in the legendary desert rally.



13th January 2007, Rest Day in the Atar bivouac

Right in the middle of the Sahara, the setting is ideal to stock up and to get ready for what remains. We replenished Martin's stocks of tape and other Loctite® products to keep his KTM 525 EXC in good shape: it was still 4,201 kilometres to Dakar.

"There is no point in running like a madman in the first days, because the Dakar Rally is an endurance one and I plan to get to the arrival line, not to win", Freinademetz had said before leaving to Lisbon.

And arrive he did: When he finished in 90th position he was the only Austrian to make it from the start in Lisbon on 6th January, on two wheels and through six countries, to the finish in Dakar. Out of 245 bikes at the start, 133 reached Lac Rose.

Best regards from
Charly "B"



Images courtesy of <http://www.freinademetz.com/sports/dakar.php>