

Rally Dakar 2013.

8,000 kilometres through South America over two weeks:
the Husqvarna Rally Team by Speedbrain faces up to the challenges of the
legendary Rally Dakar.

Off-road experts at the most famous marathon rally in the world.

Raw gravel routes, high sand dunes and deep riverbeds: this is the habitat of the Husqvarna rally bike. As such, it stands to reason that it should take on the ultimate challenge in off-road marathon racing – the Rally Dakar. The Husqvarna Rally Team by Speedbrain will again have its sights set on the podium when it lines up at the 35th edition of the desert classic in January 2013. The team from Stephanskirchen (GER) will receive factory support from Husqvarna Motorcycles and the BMW Group. The bike charged with achieving success in South America in January is the Husqvarna TE 449 RR by Speedbrain, which made its debut at the 2012 Rally Dakar and has since been further developed in all areas. This time, a total of five of the off-road bikes, which were developed and assembled in Stephanskirchen, will line up at the start. The four bikes of the team will be ridden by Joan Barreda (ESP), Paulo Gonçalves (POR), Matt Fish (AUS) and TBA. In addition, there is an agreement between Speedbrain and Jordi Viladoms (ESP), who will use a TE 449 RR as a privateer at the 2013 Rally Dakar.

For a long time the Rally Dakar has enjoyed legendary status. The first race took place back in December 1978. It took the teams from Paris, through southern Europe and the deserts of North Africa, to Dakar in Senegal. Since then, the “Dakar” has developed into the most famous marathon rally in the world. The name is synonymous with adventure and freedom, but the desert classic is also the ultimate test of endurance for man and machine, and often requires them to push their boundaries. In 2013 the Rally Dakar will be held in South America for the fifth time and gets underway on 5th January in the Peruvian capital of Lima. From there, the 8,000-kilometre plus route takes the

competitors on 14 stages through northern Chile and the Andes to Argentina, before returning to Chile and its capital Santiago. The teams and riders are scheduled to arrive there on 19th January.

An experienced team will take on the desert marathon, in the form of the Husqvarna Rally Team by Speedbrain. Speedbrain was founded in 2006, and the key positions were taken by off-road experts. In 2011 the team was responsible for BMW's return to the Rally Dakar and immediately caught the eye with stage victories for the BMW G450X. In the same year, the BMW Group transferred its purely off-road racing activities to its subsidiary Husqvarna Motorcycles. The Husqvarna TE449 RR by Speedbrain, which was developed by the team in Stephanskirchen, made its debut at the 2012 Rally Dakar. Joan Barreda (ESP) claimed the bike's historic first Dakar stage win, with the Husqvarna Rally Team by Speedbrain finishing on the podium after six stages.

In the months since its return from South America, the Husqvarna TE449 RR by Speedbrain has been further developed in all areas. Four off-road bikes from Stephanskirchen will line up at the 2013 Rally Dakar. They will be overseen on-site in South America by an eleven-man team of employees with Dakar experience. The man pulling all the strings is Managing Director of Speedbrain and Team Manager Wolfgang Fischer, while Technical Director Stefan Krause is responsible for technical issues. Berthold Hauser is project leader at Husqvarna Motorcycles / BMW Motorrad.

When it comes to the riders, the Husqvarna Rally Team by Speedbrain can count on a combination of talent, speed and cumulative marathon rally experience. Experts saw Joan Barreda as the discovery of the 2012 Rally Dakar. Now 29, the Spaniard was contesting the desert classic for the second time in January, and was making his Dakar debut as a Husqvarna rider. The historic stage victory for the Husqvarna TE449 RR by Speedbrain and several top-three finishes

underlined the fact that Barreda is a potential future Dakar winner. He has an experienced partner at his side, in the form of Paulo Goncalves. The 33-year-old father from Portugal will line up at the Rally Dakar for the seventh time in 2013 and has enjoyed success with Speedbrain at marathon events for many years. New to the team is 32-year-old Australian Matthew "Matt" Fish. The rider of the fourth Husqvarna TE449 RR by Speedbrain at the 2013 Rally Dakar will be announced shortly.

Preparations for the season highlight in South America took place under competitive conditions. For example, the Husqvarna Rally Team by Speedbrain has contested the entire season in the FIM Cross Country Rallies World Championship for the first time. The team got off to a successful start: Barreda and Goncalves came home second and third to claim podium finishes at the Abu Dhabi Desert Challenge at the start of April. Another historic triumph came at the iconic Pharaons Rally in Egypt at the start of October. Barreda won this classic and, in doing so, presented Husqvarna with its first victory at a desert rally. In the Manufacturers' standings of the FIM Cross Country Rallies World Championship, Husqvarna finished in an impressive second place overall. As well as the World Championship rallies, the team also competed successfully at the Baja España Aragón in Spain - Joan Barreda was victorious - and the Oil Libya Rallye du Maroc in Morocco. Barreda finished second overall in this rally, which is widely regarded as a dress rehearsal for the Dakar. Goncalves and Fish completed the strong team result by finishing fifth and eighth. Barreda and Goncalves both won one stage. The most important conclusion after all the preparations is that the Husqvarna TE449 RR by Speedbrain and the riders are ready for the endurance test in South America. The bike works like clockwork, while the technology has not once caused any major problems. The riders have also shown that they are among the very best in the world - the prerequisites for the 2013 Rally Dakar could hardly be better.

"It is just a few weeks until the racing world turns its attention back to South America," explained Klaus Allisat, President of Husqvarna Motorcycles. "The Rally Dakar not only thrills die-hard motorsport fans, but is also followed by millions of people around the globe as the most infamous endurance rally in the world. The name 'Dakar' is well known around the world. This makes it the perfect stage for us to demonstrate our expertise in the off-road area. In doing so, we can count on a proven partner in Speedbrain. The team has an immense wealth of experience and huge ability. The success it has enjoyed in recent years are emphatic proof of this. We are looking forward to supporting Wolfgang Fischer's team again at the '2013 Dakar' and wish them every success as they face the challenge in South America."

"We can hardly wait for our bikes to roll down the start ramp in Lima," said Team Manager Wolfgang Fischer. "The success enjoyed during our preparations this summer has given us plenty of confidence. We have further developed and optimised the Husqvarna TE449 RR by Speedbrain, and our riders have shown that they are capable of competing with the best in the world. They will have a say in who wins and who ends up on the podium. And that is what we have set our sights on for the 'Dakar'. I would like to thank all the team members, riders, mechanics and engineers who have been so committed and worked so hard on this project. A huge thank you goes to the BMW Group and Husqvarna Motorcycles. Their support has played a major role in allowing us to be so well equipped going into the 'Dakar' adventure. I would also like to thank Monster Energy, a partner who has reliably been on our side since we started out. Over the coming weeks we will complete our preparations – and then it is off to South America. In order to allow private riders to benefit from the experience and development of the team, we plan to provide rental bikes, including service, for the 2013 FIM Cross Country Rallies World Championship. Furthermore, we also want to offer fully competition-ready customer racing bikes for the 2014 Rally Dakar. We are currently working flat out to get the necessary clearances for this project."

**No desert too wide, no mountain too high:
the Husqvarna TE449 RR by Speedbrain.**

Back at the start of 2010, Speedbrain began developing a version of the BMW G450X, which was specifically designed to meet the demands of marathon rallies. BMW made its return to the Rally Dakar with this bike at the start of 2011. By spring 2011, the engineers at Speedbrain had already started to develop and assemble a new rally bike:
the Husqvarna TE449 RR by Speedbrain.

It is an ultra-modern and innovative racing motorbike, which is particularly light, possesses good handling and stability on a wide range of terrains, giving the rider maximum confidence. Husqvarna is feeding its know-how into the further development of the engine and endurance mapping to improve stability. Speedbrain and its research and development department are responsible for developing the chassis and rally-specific components. The bike is continuously being developed and optimised in cooperation with the riders.

At the heart of the bike is the Husqvarna TE449 engine, which has been modified to handle the demands of rallying. Husqvarna is responsible for the development, design and overall performance diagnostics of the 450cc engine, and supplies the race-ready power train to the Speedbrain team. The Husqvarna TE449 engine is one of the bike's biggest strengths and has been optimised again ahead of the 2013 Rally Dakar.

The electronics form one complex but key area, as the rally bike is equipped with numerous navigational and safety components.

The Husqvarna TE449 RR by Speedbrain has its own electronics system, which was developed specifically for this motorcycle and is also the subject of continuous modifications and improvements. In addition, Speedbrain reworked and partly redeveloped the entire frame concept after the 2012 Rally Dakar. As such, the bike that lines up at the 2013 Rally Dakar will

be a further development of the bike used in 2012, which has been improved in many areas.

Among the features of the rally version is a very compact, concept-driven package in the chassis area. This allows the optimal integration of the two-part central/rear tank in the bike, which in turn guarantees the rider maximum freedom of movement, Enduro-like ergonomics and perfect balance. The fact that the Husqvarna TE449 RR by Speedbrain is so light is down, in part, to the aerodynamically optimised Carbon Kevlar fairing and a special rear part. The Carbon Kevlar engine protection with integrated three-litre water tank gives the engine and the low rally header pipe full protection.

Technical Data: Husqvarna TE449 RR by Speedbrain.

Water-cooled, 4-stroke single-cylinder engine, two overhead camshafts, four valves, dry sump lubrication with oil cooler, electronic intake pipe injection / digital engine management

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| Bore x stroke: | 98 mm x 59.6 mm |
| Capacity: | 449.5 cc |
| Front wheel suspension: | WP Upside-down big bore cone valve fork Ø 52mm |
| Rear wheel suspension: | Aluminium dual swing arm with WP Trax rear suspension |
| Suspension travel front: | 300 mm |
| Suspension travel rear: | 320 mm |
| Brake, front: | Single disc brake, diameter 298 mm, double-piston floating calliper |
| Brake, rear: | Single disc brake, diameter 220 mm, single-piston floating calliper |
| Unladen weight: | 137 kg |
| Usable tank volume: | approx. 30 l |
| Tyres: | Michelin Desert Race |

The riders: Equipped and ready for the ultimate challenge.

One of the strengths of the Husqvarna Rally Team by Speedbrain is the close-knit team. The motto here is one for all, all for one. The riders are not lone warriors, but partners and team members who complement and support each other in cooperation with engineers and mechanics.

Joan Barreda (ESP / 29 years).

Joan Barreda will spearhead the team at the 2013 Rally Dakar. The popular Spaniard actually started out in motocross, but his career never really took off. This was not due to a lack of speed or talent, as Barreda has an excess of both these properties. It was more a combination of misfortune and injuries. Wolfgang Fischer became aware of Barreda and decided to bring him into the world of rallying. The Spaniard's new base is with Speedbrain, where he feels right at home – and has kick-started his career. In 2012 he entered the Rally Dakar for the second time, his first Dakar for the Husqvarna team. It did not take long for him to be spoken of as the big discovery of the rally. He matched the pace of the leading Dakar riders and finished on the podium at four of the stages. The highlight was his triumph on stage ten, when Barreda claimed the historic first stage win for the new Husqvarna TE449 RR by Speedbrain. In the overall standings, Barreda could clearly have set his sights on the podium at the 2012 Rally Dakar, had he not lost too much time due to a crash and rear-axle damage on days three and four of the rally.

In the months after the Rally Dakar, Barreda set about proving that his success in South America was no flash in the pan, converting a high basic speed into top results. At the start of April he finished runner-up at the Abu Dhabi Rally Challenge, the opening event of the FIM Cross Country Rallies World Championship. Another demonstration of his riding ability was the outstanding victory at the Baja España Aragón in July of this year. He also achieved another milestone at the iconic and infamous Pharaohs Rally in Egypt at the start of October: the first victory for Husqvarna

at a desert rally. At the Oil Lybia Rallye du Maroc in October he won one stage and finished second overall.

"Now it is only a few weeks left until we start into the Dakar. The whole team is working hard in order to prepare for this race," said Barreda. "We showed at the last rallies that we have a reasonable speed, now it is about to have a good physical condition and we will even train a little bit more than normal. We have a strong team and are very focused so I think we can really get a good result."

Paulo Goncalves (POR / 33 years).

Portuguese family man Paulo Goncalves enjoys a long relationship with Speedbrain. He has been a permanent fixture in the team and is a "Dakar old hand". In January 2013 he will line up at the desert classic for the seventh time. Goncalves is a real team player, has a very good relationship with everyone, and creates a good atmosphere in the team thanks to his positive and cheerful manner. On the bike, he boasts impressive speed, ability and experience. At the Dakar debut of the Speedbrain team in 2011, Goncalves soon established himself as the team's leading rider, securing a place on the podium on just the third stage on the BMW G450X. Two days later came a real milestone: Goncalves produced an outstanding ride to claim the fledgling team's first stage win. This was also the first Dakar stage victory for a BMW for ten years. One year later, at the 2012 Rally Dakar, Goncalves found himself on the podium after another two stages. He also had his sights set on the top three in the overall standings, and worked his way into fourth place thanks to consistently quick times. However, a controversial six-hour penalty in the second week saw him drop well back through the field, dashing any hopes of a top finish.

At the Abu Dhabi Rally Challenge in April, Goncalves finished third to join his Speedbrain team-mate Barreda on the podium. Goncalves narrowly missed out on finishing in the top three overall in the 2012 FIM Cross Country Rallies World Championship, ending the season

in fourth place. Like team mate Barreda, he won one stage at the Oil Libya Rallye du Maroc in October. He is now fully focussed on the 2013 Rally Dakar.

“For me, this rally is like a dream. You could think that it is impossible to do something like that,” commented Goncalves. “But it is already my seventh Dakar so now I have set myself a new target, which is to finish on the podium. In the last years I finished a lot stages within the top 3 and at the next Dakar I will try to make no mistakes and to ride fast and safe to take the overall podium.”

Matthew „Matt“ Fish (AUS / 32 years).

Matt Fish is new to the Husqvarna Rally Team by Speedbrain. His first outing with the team came in October at the Oil Libya Rallye du Maroc in Morocco. He used the rally to familiarise himself with the team structure. The Australian can already call on 25 years of off-road experience and is regarded as a real desert specialist. This season he won the famous Indee 500 Desert Race in his native Australia. At the second race of the FIM Cross Country Rallies World Championship, in Qatar, he finished in the top eight. However, the “Dakar” is new territory for the experienced desert racer, who will be making his debut at the marathon classic in 2013.

“I am obviously extremely excited riding my first Dakar,” said Fish, looking ahead. “That has been my goal for a long time now and it is like a dream coming true. I got to meet the Husqvarna team and Wolfgang Fischer at the first two rounds of the world championship. And I had the luck that Wolfgang decided to put me on as an assistant rider. So my goal is to finish the Dakar and help the boys if the need it.”