

2009 Troodos Rally - Round 5 – 2009 FIA Middle East Rally Championship
9th-11th October 2009

FINAL COUNTDOWN BEGINS TO 2009 FIA TROODOS RALLY

Itinerary announced; Fans anticipate exciting battle for title

The FIA Middle East Rally Championship moves to Cyprus this weekend for the 2009 Troodos Rally. With just two rounds to go after Cyprus, current championship leader Yazeed Al-Rajhi of Saudi Arabia will be hoping to further his lead on the island's challenging special stages. But he can expect tough competition from 2nd-placed Misfer Al-Marri of Qatar, and defending champion Nasser Al-Attiyah of Qatar – who currently sits 3rd in the championship, but has won this Cyprus event a staggering six times in a row.

Round 5 of this year's MERC, the 2009 Troodos Rally promises to be as exciting as ever and, with teams already setting up camp in the Service Park, the organizers – the Cyprus Automobile Association (CAA) - are busy putting the final touches to what is sure to be a highlight of the international rally calendar.

With a strong entry list already confirmed, featuring top drivers from across the region and the Cypriot rallying elite, the battle for victory is expected to be intense. Drivers competing the event will include Qatar's Khalid Al-Suwaidi and Abdulaziz Al-Kuwari, Lebanon's Roger Feghali, young Cypriot star Nicos Thomas (fresh from this weekend's WRC event in Spain), and his fellow countrymen Savvas Savva, Constantinos Tingirides, Paraskevas Paraskeva, and 'Lillys'.

Any rallying event in Cyprus is a challenge for both car and driver and this year's Troodos Rally promises to be no different. The event gets underway at 20:30 on Friday (9th) with a Ceremonial Start at Geroskipou's town square, near to the west coast resort town of Paphos.

The rally proper gets underway from the Service Park at Geroskipou's Riu Cypria Bay hotel at 08:00 on Saturday, with the first car entering Special Stage (SS) 1 (Agios Nicolaos) at 08:58, SS2 (Panagia) at 09:46, and SS3 (Xeropigi/Stavros) at 10:14. Crews will return to the Service Park at 11:44 and then head out again at 12:04 to tackle the last three stages of the day – SS4 (Agios Nicolaos) at 13:02, SS5 (Panagia) at 13:50, and SS6 (Xeropigi-Stavros) at 14:18. Flexi Service out and Parc Ferme in at the Service Park is at 16:13, with the last car into Parc Ferme at 19:00. Saturday will see drivers tackle a total of 316.14km, including 111.84km of special stage action.

Crews will cover a further 383.30km on Sunday, including 139.22km of Special Stages. Parc Ferme out is at 07:00 on Sunday morning, with the first car entering the first stage of the day SS7 (Anadiou Dam) at 07:58. The first car enters SS8 (Foinokli) at 08:56, SS9 (Argaka) at 09:49. SS10 (Stavros) starts at 10:42 and crews then return to Service at 12:07. Crews will then head out for the last four stages of the event – SS11 (Anadiou

Dam) at 13:15, SS12 (Foinokli) at 14:13, SS13 (Argaka) at 15:06, and finally SS14 (Stavros) at 15:59. Cars will return to the Service Park for final service at 17:04.

The Finish ceremony and prizegiving will get underway at 17:30 at Geroskipou town square.

Following its successful move to the west coast of the island last year, the Troodos Rally is once again based around the popular town of Geroskipou. The event Headquarters, Press Office and Service Park are located in and around Geroskipou's Riu Cyprus Bay hotel.

The 2009 Troodos Rally is organised by the Cyprus Automobile Association (CAA) and supported by the Cyprus Tourism Organisation.

For further information about this year's Troodos Rally, visit www.caa.com.cy or telephone the CAA on (00357) 22313233. For further information about Geroskipou, visit www.geroskipou-municipality.com

2009 FIA MERC Drivers Standings Ahead Of 2009 Troodos Rally

Pos	Drivers	QA	KWT	YR	RL	Pts
1	Yazeed AL RAJHI (SA)	8	0	10	10	28
2	Misfer AL MARRI (QA)	5	8	8	0	21
3	Nasser AL ATTIYA (QA)	10	10	0	0	20
4	Mubarak AL HAJRI (QA)	1	0	6	6	13
	= Nick GEORGIOU (RL)	0	0	5	8	13
6	Khaled AL QASSIMI (UAE)	6	6	0	0	12
7	Mufeed MUBARAK (KWT)	0	5	2	1	8
	= Michel SALEH (RL)	0	0	4	4	8
	= Khalid AL SUWAIDI (QA)	0	0	3	5	8
10	Abdullah AL QASSIMI (UAE)	2	0	0	3	5
11	Rashid AL KETBI (UAE)	4	0	0	0	4
	= Meshal AL NEJADI (KWT)	0	4	0	0	4
13	Meshari AL THAFIRI (KWT)	0	3	0	0	3
	= Salah BIN EIDAN (KWT)	3	0	0	0	3
15	Jaber AL MARRI (QA)	0	2	0	0	2
	= Ammar HIJAZI (HKJ)	0	0	0	2	2
17	Faisal AL ATTIYA (QA)	0	1	0	0	1
	= Ahmad AL SABBAN (SA)	0	0	1	0	1

ENDS

2009 Troodos Rally Press Office
6th October 2009