



Repsol Mitsubishi Ralliart Team

HIROSHI MASUOKA

Hiroshi Masuoka was born in Japan in March 1960 and now lives in Iruma, Saitama, Japan, with his wife Chiaki and son Shoichiro. He first began off-road racing in 1979 and attempted the Dakar Rally for the first time in 1987.

In 1990, he finished first in the T2 category and then took fourth position four years later. Between 1995 and 2000 he finished inside the top 10 on six occasions, the highlight being a pair of fourth places in 1997 and 1998. He made the podium (2nd) the following season in a Mitsubishi Pajero/Montero, but his finest hour came in 2002 when he became only the second Japanese driver in history to win the Dakar Rally with the official Mitsubishi team.

Hiroshi followed that success up with a second consecutive victory in 2003, in addition to a late win in the Baja Italy. He then finished runner-up behind teammate Stéphane Peterhansel in 2004.

After a few quiet months, he returned to action in October 2004 to win the UAE Desert Challenge for the first time at sixth attempt, but retired from the 2005 Dakar Rally with engine problems.

His second event of the 2005 season netted the Japanese driver third position in the Rallye de Tunisie and he went on to attend both of Mitsubishi's Moroccan test sessions, as well as the team's fitness programme in Chamonix, France, before contesting the Baja Portalegre in October as a final shakedown test for the 2006 Dakar.

An accident in Morocco ruined his chances of taking a third victory on the event in five years, but he set several competitive stage times on the Rallye du Maroc in early June and was again an integral part of the development team during Mitsubishi's test sessions in Morocco in June and September 2006.

In addition to his contribution to the team's development programme in 2007, Hiroshi contested January's Dakar which he finished in sixth position after losing time following a clutch change on SS6.

Career Highlights:

1987	29 th , Dakar
1990	10 th , Dakar (1 st , T2 category)
1992	20 th , Paris-Le Cap
1994	4 th , Dakar
1995	10 th , Dakar
1996	6 th , Granada-Dakar
1997	4 th , Dakar
1998	4 th , Paris-Granada-Dakar
1999	6 th , Granada-Dakar
2000	6 th , Dakar
2001	2 nd , Dakar (with Pascal Maimon/Mitsubishi Pajero)
2002	1 st , Dakar (with Pascal Maimon/Mitsubishi Pajero)

Team is supported by:



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2003	2 nd , Rallye du Maroc 1 st , Dakar (Mitsubishi Pajero* Evolution)
2004	1 st , Italian Baja (Mitsubishi Pajero* Evolution) 2 nd , Dakar (Mitsubishi Pajero* Evolution) 1 st , UAE Desert Challenge (Mitsubishi Pajero* Evolution)
2005	3 rd , Rallye de Tunisie (Mitsubishi Pajero* Evolution)
2006	Rallye de Tunisie, Rallye du Maroc, UAE Desert Challenge
2007	6 th , Dakar (Mitsubishi Pajero* Evolution)

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PASCAL MAIMON

Pascal Maimon was born on March 17th, 1960. He lives in France and is married with two children. He is one of the most experienced individuals in the world of cross-country rallying.

Pascal began his association with motorsport working for Citroën in the French and FIA World Rally Championships between 1978 and 1981 at the team's Vélizy base, near Paris. He tackled the Dakar for the first time with Jacques Houssat in a service truck and so began a long association with the African classic.

After minor results with Jacques Houssat and Gérard Boin, he joined Bruno Saby and Mitsubishi for the 1992 Paris-Cape Town event and went on to partner the likes of Miguel Prieto, South Africa's Giniel de Villiers, Spaniard Marc Blasquez and the UAE's Khalifa Al-Mutawei. The highlight of his career to date was undoubtedly winning the Dakar alongside Hiroshi Masuoka for Mitsubishi in 2002.

Pascal rekindled his partnership with Masuoka three years later to finish third overall on the 2005 Rallye de Tunisie and he is now the Japanese driver's regular right-hand man. The pair was forced out of the 2006 Dakar Rally by an accident which damaged their Pajero's tubular frame. In 2006, they both took part together in the Rallye de Tunisie, the Rallye du Maroc and the UAE Desert Challenge before contesting the 2007 Dakar which they finished in sixth position.

Career Highlights:

1984-1990	Development mechanic for Peugeot's Dakar and Rally-Raid programs
1985	Safari Rally (with Pierre Pagani/Peugeot 205 T16)
1987	Contested the Dakar with Jacques Houssat (Peugeot service)
1988	21 st , Dakar (with Gérard Boin/Peugeot P4)
1989	16 th , Pharaohs Rally (with Jacques Houssat/P4) 16 th , Dakar (with Jacques Houssat/P4)
1990	Dakar Rally (with Gérard Boin/P4)
1993	Atlas Rally (recce and note taking for Mitsubishi)
1992	Dakar (with Bruno Saby/Mitsubishi)
1993-1997	Worked for TSO on roadbooks and route work
2000	Baja events (with Hiroshi Masuoka/Mitsubishi) Dakar-Cairo Rally (with Miguel Prieto/Mitsubishi)
2001	2 nd , Paris-Dakar Rally (with Hiroshi Masuoka/Mitsubishi)
2002	1 st , Dakar (with Hiroshi Masuoka/Mitsubishi) Rallye de Tunisie (with Bruno Saby/Ford Ranger)
2003	5 th , Dakar (with Giniel de Villiers/Nissan) Italian Baja and UAE Desert Challenge (with Khalifa Al-Mutawei) Rallye de Tunisie (with Marc Blasquez) Baja Portugal (with Marc Blasquez) Baja Espana (with Mark Blasquez)
2004	Dakar (with Yves Loubet)

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2005	Rallye de Tunisie (with Kenjiro Shinozuka/Nissan) Dakar (with Kenjiro Shinozuka/Nissan)
2006	3 rd , Rallye de Tunisie (with Hiroshi Masuoka) Contested the Dakar , the Rallye de Tunisie, the Rallye du Maroc and the UAE Desert Challenge (with Hiroshi Masuoka)
2007	6 th , Dakar (with Hiroshi Masuoka)

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