



*team  
desseoudé*



## PRESS INFO - DAKAR 2015

LEG 9 : Iquique - Calama (Chile) - 01/13/2015

Liaison: 51 km - SS: 450 km - Liaison: 37 km

### The final 100% Chilean stage!



After a much-appreciated rest day, the remaining Dakar 2015 competitors got back on the road today, heading for Calama, the end-point of the 9th stage. Another stage of sand, dunes, banks and holes.

The itinerary was actually identical to that in 2014, but run in the opposite direction with, in addition, the marks of the previous edition. The day before crossing back over the Cordillera of the Andes to Argentina, the organisers have not chosen the easy option, and it was clearly not going to be a

picnic.



Having started off at a run, the duo of Thierry MAGNALDI – Guy LENEVEU covered the kilometres at a high pace, even being in the Top 20 for a while. Gobbling up the last Atacama dunes then proving to be very agile over the rough ground, the Juke Buggy put in a fine performance. Unfortunately, 30 kilometres from the finish line, there was a dramatic turn of events when the driver stopped on the side of the track ... out of fuel ! Astonishment and incomprehension all round, as the fuel consumption is shown by the onboard calculator, which appeared to have malfunctioned, showing wrong values. The technical staff will look at the issue this evening.

Whatever was behind the problem, the crew of the Juke Buggy are back in the bivouac this evening thanks to their team-mate LIU Kun, who towed them back as, it should be remembered, the Buggy uses diesel while the Proto N05 runs on petrol... Despite losing some time while waiting for his good Samaritan, the buggy reached the bivouac without issues.



As far as the team's only remaining Chinese crew was concerned, LIU Kun driving with LIAO Min on the DESSOUE Proto N05, the final part of the special stage was quite complicated. Although the first two thirds gave no issues, it was when they got closer to Calama that their problems began. These problems concerned the brakes, which suddenly developed a very long brake pedal, forcing the #393 to make a stop. It was rather delicate and very complicated to continue at speed under these conditions, so our friends opted for prudence and considerably slowed their pace. This explained the delay in reaching Thierry.

But this evening, it's a case of all's well that ends well, and the two cars are in the Calama bivouac.





Tomorrow will include another crossing of the Cordillera of the Andes, to reach the Argentine side. The stage between Calama and Salta will be difficult, and altitude will as always play a key role. The special stage will start on the Argentine side, from Salinas Grandes, at over 3600 metres of altitude. The end of the route will be much more technical and should delight the drivers. Another fine day in perspective, which will add another 859 kilometres to the counter.



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## CONTACTS

André DESSOUE  
Géraldine DESHAYES

Tel : + 33 2.33.75.66.73  
Fax : + 33 2.33.75.66.69  
Mobile: + 33 6 08 31 41 79  
Email: [geraldinedeshayes@wanadoo.fr](mailto:geraldinedeshayes@wanadoo.fr)

Race Com - Presse / Press - Email :  
[race.com@wanadoo.fr](mailto:race.com@wanadoo.fr)



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