

Franz Hummel – Career Highlights

1949 (November): Born in Paris.

1959: Caught the “motoring virus” watching his father François Hummel race Simca, Volvo and Citroën DS (official driver) at Montlhéry and Reims. With his Volvo 544, François Hummel won the 1960 AGACI Cup and the 1960 Coupe du Salon in his class, also competing in the Monte Carlo Rally, Rallye Deutschland, Tour de Corse, Lyon-Charbonnières, and Rallye des Routes du Nord.

1972: While student at the Chamonix Ice Driving School, Franz entered his first race: the "Ronde Hivernale de Chamonix". Driving a rented Renault 16 from Hertz, he finished 3rd in the National class.

(Video: <https://cutt.ly/Ronde-Hivernale>)

1973: 3rd place in the prestigious Volant Shell competition at Magny-Cours.

1974: Appointed Director of the Chamonix Ice Driving School & Co-promoter of the "24 Heures sur Glace de Chamonix". As a driver, finished 4th in the 24 Hours with Michel Alibelli (Alpine A110).

Also competed in the London-Kano-Munich Rally (World Cup Rally) with a factory-prepared Lancia Jolly Club.

1975: Competed at the 24 Hours of Le Mans (Lola Roc 2L).

1976: 6th overall in the "24 Heures sur Glace de Chamonix" with Jean-Pierre Beltoise (Alpine-Renault). Competed in the Sanremo Rally (World Rally Championship) with a semi-works Alpine-Renault.

1977: Competed in the Monte Carlo Rally (semi-works Alpine-Renault). Also drove a Porsche 934 Turbo for the factory team at the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

1976–1978: Instructor at the Winfield Racing School, Magny-Cours. Factory Renault driver at the "24 Heures sur Glace de Chamonix". Competed in the 6 Hours of Dakar (Ligier ex-works).

1984: Managing Director of the "24 Heures sur Glace de Chamonix" and the Ice Driving School. Hired future F1 driver Jean Alesi as an instructor for four winters.

1985: First attempt at the Algiers–Cape Town record (Citroën official entry).

1986: Co-promoter (with Rémi Depoix) of the Chamonix Automobile Festival and the “Most Beautiful Car of the Year” award in partnership with TF1, held alongside the "24 Heures sur Glace de Chamonix".

Winner of the "24 Heures sur Glace de Chamonix" with Jean-Pierre Malcher (factory-prepared Citroën Visa).

(Video: <https://youtu.be/FKkmTiqsf8I>)

1988 (June): With Jean-Pierre Frizon and Georges Gaffier, set the first benchmark for the Algiers–Cape Town crossing: 14,380 km in 12 days, 18 hrs, 55 min (Mitsubishi Pajero).

(Videos: <https://youtu.be/Qg3sv5jzgeA> & <https://youtu.be/wt6vBjIPIqk>)

1988 (December): With Jean-Pierre Frizon and Stéphane Roux, completed Paris–Dakar non-stop in 5 days, 20 hrs, 21 min (including sea crossing) – 8,320 km (Range Rover).

(Video: https://youtu.be/EaJQwO0Bx_U)

1989: With Jean-Pierre Frizon & Paris-Match journalist Jacques-Marie Bourget, drove from Cape of Good Hope to the North Cape: 20,530 km in 13 days, 22 hrs, 36 min (Range Rover). Beat the previous record by over 48 hours.

(Videos: <https://youtu.be/UQTEsRb9NGM> & https://youtu.be/4_y2Y7DYyoc)

1990: Solo record attempt – “Transafrican Challenge” Cape Town–Algiers, 13,560 km in 12 days, 8 hrs, 45 min (Range Rover). Averaged over 1,100 km/day. Record remains unbeaten.

(Video: <https://youtu.be/MF2nX7j2uwU>)

1991: Competed in the "24 Heures sur Glace de Chamonix" with Jacques Laffite (Mercedes, Snobeck Racing Service).

Awarded the “Master of Human Adventure” prize ahead of Hubert Auriol and Ari Vatanen.

1992: 3rd in the Marathon class of the Paris–Moscow–Beijing Rally Raid (Nissan Patrol GR T1, no assistance).

1995: Competed in the "24 Heures sur Glace de Chamonix" with Jean-Louis Schlessler (Buggy Rally Raid).

1996: With Bruno Saby, Jean-Pierre Frizon and Dominique Serieys, drove from Cape Horn to Alaska – 24,432 km in 14 days, 5 hrs, 53 min (Mitsubishi Pajero). Beat the previous record by over 9 days, averaging 109 km/h including all stops.

(Video: <https://youtu.be/BuXfOKGHM2o>)

1997: The "24 Heures sur Glace de Chamonix" recognised as France's 4th most important motorsport event after Le Mans, French GP and Paris-Dakar.

1999: Promoted the 1st International Ice Challenge in Sherbrooke, Canada.

2000–2003: Exclusive FIA & FFSA promoter for the International Ice Racing Series (IRSI), held in France (Chamonix), Germany (Oschersleben), Canada (Sherbrooke), Finland (Kuopio), Italy (Saint-Rhémy & Livigno) and Russia (St. Petersburg).

2003: Co-inventor (with Jean-Claude Zucker) of the patented HZ® “slippery asphalt” surface for road safety and driver training centres.

2006: Awarded the Légion d'Honneur by Maurice Herzog.

2007: Created and promoted the “Week-end de l'Excellence Automobile” on the historic Reims-Gueux circuit.

(Video: <https://youtu.be/RYgKCVtLaHE>)

2008: Named Chevalier in the Order of the Coteaux de Champagne.

2010: Successfully campaigned for the historic classification of the Reims-Gueux racing infrastructure. Organised a Mirage F1 flight experience for Jean Alesi and Philippe Gache at Base 112.

2015: Created the "Grandes Heures Automobiles" at Linas-Montlhéry Autodrome near Paris.

(Video collection: <https://www.youtube.com/@LesGrandesHeuresAutomobiles/videos>)

2016: The film "La Photo", produced by "Les Grandes Heures Automobiles" and directed by Jean-Louis Mourey, won the Platinum Remi Award at WorldFest Houston.

2017–2018: Organised major exhibitions at Retromobile Paris: Group B (2017), “Autodrome of Records” (2018).

2018: "The Grandes Heures Automobiles" nominated in the top 5 “Best Motorsport Events of the Year” at the Historic Motoring Awards.

2020: Knighted in the Confrérie du Tastevin at Clos de Vougeot.

Since 2022: Promoter of the Driver’s Rally, a gentleman drivers’ rally held in France, Switzerland and Italy.

(www.driversrally.com)



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