



ALEXANDRU MĂRMUREANU ACHIEVED A SENSATIONAL VICTORY AT THE FAT ICE RACE, IN THE USA » FRAS

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Romanian driver Alexandru Marmureanu, a long-time enthusiast of racing around the world, won the FAT Ice Race (Classics category) in the United States of America, behind the wheel of a 1980 FIAT 131 Abarth Rally. On the slopes of Moonlight Basin, Montana, Alexandru Mărmureanu took center stage and managed to defeat numerous Porsche models and other renowned brands at the FAT Ice Race, a true symbol of automotive sports culture, with origins dating back to 1952.

At the end, the Romanian driver, who has also competed in events such as Baja 1000, Pike's Peak, Porsche Carrera Cup North America, Lamborghini Super Trofeo, and the Daytona 24 Hours, stated that he expected to finish in first place and that in 2026 he is considering returning to Romania to start in a round of the National Super Rally Championship or the National Endurance Championship.

At the same time, in addition to other famous races he intends to attend, he is increasingly seriously considering participating in the Historic Monte-Carlo Rally, a competition which in 2026 featured the 10 members of the Petre Cristea Heritage Rally Team.

"I left for the United States shortly after the Revolution, in February 1990. I grew up in Băile Govora and I was a big rally fan. When I was 15 or 16 years old, my father bought a Dacia 1100. At 19, I started competing in various amateur competitions, not those supported by factories. At that time, I also had an uncle in Germany, where I spent several years, because he also loved rallying. He had several high-performance cars for that era, including an Audi Quattro Integrale, a Renault 5 Rally, and a Lancia Delta S4. I used to go to local races there, and in Romania I competed with a Dacia and an Olcit in amateur competitions.

I would come to Romania for an event like Super Rally. It is very spectacular and very well organized, and the cars at the start are impressive. I would like to take part in Super Rally because it is very interesting. I also like hill climb racing, but this Super Rally is really beautiful. For what is currently happening in Romanian motorsport, I would like to congratulate the Romanian Automobile Federation and motorsport fans for everything they do.



When I think about the years when I started becoming a fan of racing, my favorite was by far Eugen Ionescu Cristea. A great, great champion who decisively influenced my path in the world of racing.

Of course, I like rallying, because I grew up with it in Romania, but I also enjoy circuit racing. I also like rally raid races on sand. At present, I am very attracted to competitions dedicated to historic cars and I am thinking about entering the Historic Monte-Carlo Rally. I also compete in the Tour de Corse Historique and I would really enjoy racing in the Historic Monte-Carlo, especially after competing at the Porsche Rennsport Reunion (an automotive event and the largest gathering in the world of classic Porsche race cars), where in 2023 I finished 2nd (7th edition PRR Flacht Cup).

*Now, returning to what happened at the FAT Ice Race, it must be said that this was my first participation. The organizers tried something here last year as well, but it did not go as expected because there was no snow. Regarding the race, I knew I was going to win as soon as I saw the lap time differences. Keep in mind, I competed against professional drivers, but I managed to beat them. As a Romanian who has been away from the country for so many years, it was a source of pride for me to represent Romania at such a level and to do so whenever I have the opportunity," **said Alexandru Marmureanu.***



For the FAT Ice Race, his car was tuned and prepared by Flying Lizard Motorsports and Road Scholars, while partners from Rallysport Development supplied the wheels and WRC-specific winter tires, equipped with 7 mm studs, specially designed for ice and snow surfaces. Mechanics from KR Racing and Road Race Engineering maintained the car throughout the event.

Next, Alexandru Marmureanu will participate in the 35th edition of Tour Auto, a must-attend event in the motorsport world, with a route taking crews from Paris to Biarritz between May 3–9, 2026, along some of the most beautiful roads in France. Afterwards, the Romanian driver based in the USA will take part in Mille Miglia 2026, between June 9–13, 2026, a prestigious historic regularity race for vehicles manufactured before 1957, following a 5-day “figure-eight” route from Brescia to Rome and back, passing through iconic Italian regions such as Emilia-Romagna, Tuscany, and Lombardy.

Marmureanu will also compete in the 26th edition of the Tour de Corse Historique, which will take place between October 3–10, 2026. The renowned historic rally includes over 1,000 km of route, including approximately 18 special stages on closed roads across Corsica, featuring vintage rally cars from the 1947–1990 period. At the same time, the Romanian driver has also been invited to Rallylegend (San Marino), scheduled for October 8–11, 2026.

Photo sources: Melanie Maganias, Joshua Sweeney, Dr. Marmureanu and Forte Racing, Cristian Coldea (COLDEA Productions)