

Speedi

Wings & Wheels

www.speedi.tv

December 2017 / January 2018

Issue No: 35

174 Page
New Year Issue

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Single Page

News

Events

Features

Show Reports

Reviews



DAYTONA TURKEY RUN



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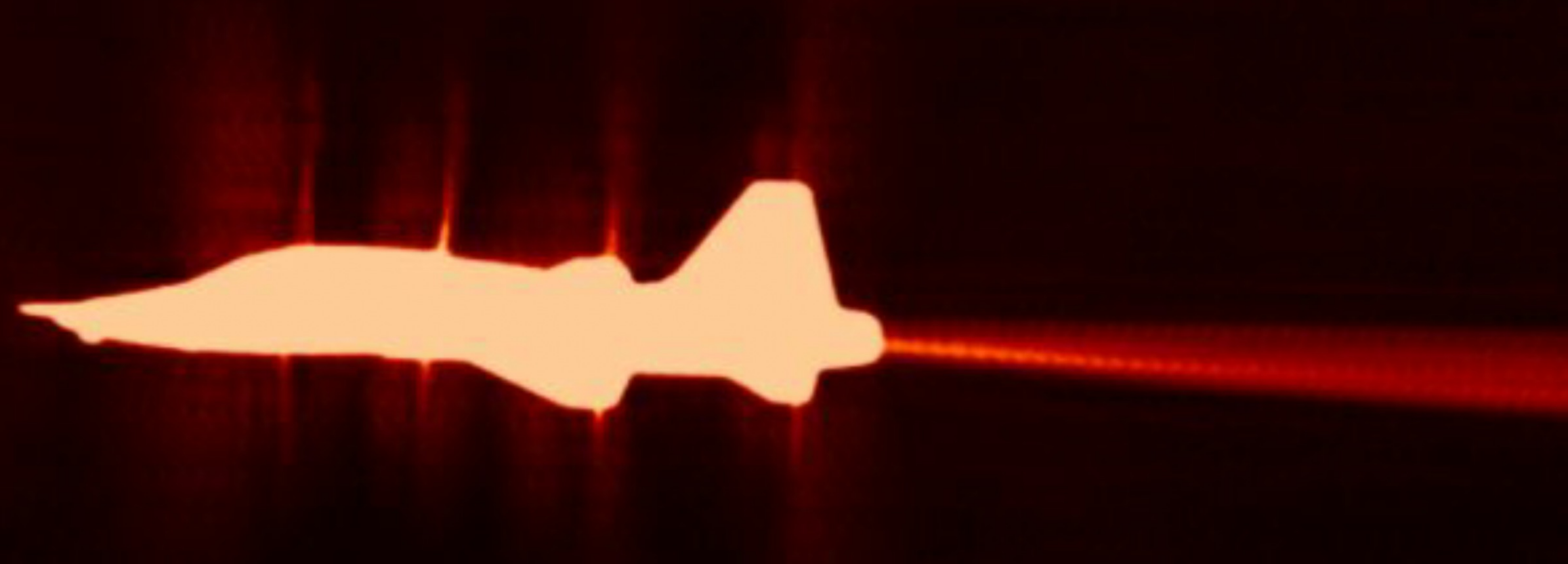
THIS MONTH: Balloon Fiesta Daytona Turkey Run and Much More

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NASA Image of the Day

Seeing an X-Plane's Sonic Boom

This schlieren image shows an Air Force Test Pilot School T-38 in a transonic state, meaning the aircraft is transitioning from a subsonic speed to supersonic.



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Editorial Team: North America Editor – Steve Wood West Coast Contributors - Jim (Flybum) Pratt, Tim Sowell Canada - Jim Swan Cruisin' & Hot Rod's - Gary Rosier UK Team - The Gremlins at Kew

Editorial

Welcome to the December 2017 / January 2018 issue of *Speedi Wings & Wheels*.

Take a look at our 'Content's page to find out more about what's in this issue. The magazine is published bi-monthly during the last week of February, April, June, August, October and December.

In this issue we are featuring the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta - Plus much more . . .

Take a look at the next page - the magazine index - for more details

Blue Sky's and Safe Flying.

The Speedi Team

*Speedi Wings & Wheels is a wide screen format magazine
Best viewed in full screen single page HD mode*

Air Force pilots and a crew chief fly a C-130J Super Hercules over Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Dec. 8, 2017, before conducting Operation Christmas Drop. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Juan Torres Chardon

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam -- The 66th iteration of Operation Christmas Drop took to the sky Dec. 11 as military leaders ceremoniously pushed the first pallet of donated toys, food, supplies and educational materials into a C-130J Super Hercules.

7 *Balloon Fiesta - 30 pages*



66 *Daytona Turkey Run*



7 Balloon Fiesta: Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta®, the world's largest balloon festival, took place between October 6 & 14. Our correspondents Gary Rosier and Marty Stephens were there to enjoy this very special event . . .

66 Daytona Turkey Run: The 44th annual Daytona Turkey Run from the Daytona Beach International Speedway. Gary Rosier is a regular visitor and despite the poor weather was there to capture the fun . . .

Regular Features:

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- 135 SpeediCity:** Fun and action from Daytona Beach



ST. LOUIS, Dec. 19, 2017

Boeing [NYSE:BA] for the first time is showing what it believes is the unmanned aircraft system (UAS) best suited for refueling U.S. Navy jets operating from aircraft carriers.

Through its MQ-25 competition, the Navy is seeking unmanned refueling capabilities that would extend the combat range of deployed Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornet, Boeing EA-18G Growler, and Lockheed Martin F-35C fighters. The MQ-25 will also have to seamlessly integrate with a carrier's catapult and launch and recovery systems.

"Boeing has been delivering carrier aircraft to the Navy for almost 90 years," said Don 'BD' Gaddis, a retired admiral who leads the refueling system program for Boeing's Phantom Works technology organization. "Our expertise gives us confidence in our approach. We will be ready for flight testing when the engineering and manufacturing development contract is awarded."

The UAS is completing engine runs before heading to the flight ramp for deck handling demonstrations early next year.

The Navy issued its final request for proposals in October. Proposals are due Jan. 3.

Photo above shows Boeing's MQ-25 unmanned aircraft system completing engine runs before heading to the flight ramp for deck handling demonstrations next year. The aircraft is designed to provide the U.S. Navy with refueling capabilities that would extend the combat range of deployed Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornet, Boeing EA-18G Growler, and Lockheed Martin F-35C fighters. (Boeing photo by Eric Shindelbower)



Bomber Armament Tester selected for U.S. Air Force bombers

Dec 18 2017

The U.S. Air Force has selected BAE Systems to design, develop, manufacture, and sustain the Bomber Armament Tester (BAT) system for the Air Force bomber fleet. The BAT system will test the operational readiness of the bomb ejector racks, rotary launchers, and pylon assemblies on board B-1B, B-2A, and B-52H aircraft under a contract worth more than \$64 million.

"The BAT system provides critical verification that the aircraft's weapon systems are

operating as specified," said Kevin Malone, vice president of Analytics Systems at BAE Systems. "Our team, which includes Marvin Test Solutions and the Air Force Air Logistics Complexes, has extensive experience developing flight line qualified armament testers and test program sets." This contract provides for engineering and manufacturing development of 90 BAT systems, which will be delivered in three increments over the next nine years. Work on the program will be performed primarily at BAE Systems' facilities in San Diego, California, and Fort Worth, Texas.

BAE Systems has designed and manufactured comprehensive test solutions for both military and commercial applications for more than 40 years. The company provides stores system testers for more than 3,000 F-16 aircraft flying today. Fielded in 23 countries, BAE Systems testers provide organizational, intermediate, and depot-level support for displays; flight and fire controls; radars; communications; and electronic warfare, stores management, pre-launch, and diagnostic systems.



Airbus Delivers the 50th A320 Family jetliner from Mobile, Alabama

16 December 2017

Team members at the Airbus U.S. Manufacturing Facility gather in front of the 50th jetliner delivered from Mobile, Alabama – an A321 for Delta Air Lines, in a milestone that also meets the industrial site's goal of reaching the production rate of four A320 Family jetliners per month

Alabama workforce also celebrating meeting goal to produce four A320 Family aircraft a month

Less than two years after Airbus delivered the first A320 Family aircraft from its Airbus A320 Family U.S. Manufacturing Facility in Mobile, Alabama, the company today delivered its 50th aircraft. The

A321, designated MSN 7943, was delivered to Delta Air Lines.

The milestone was celebrated by the facility's employees, as well as Airbus Americas Chairman Allan McArtor and members of the Delta Air Lines delivery team.

"The 50th delivery is a real point of pride not only for our team here in Mobile, but also for tens of thousands of employees from the hundreds of U.S. suppliers that contribute to these aircraft," said McArtor. "We said in 2012 that we were going to build Airbus aircraft in the U.S. for our U.S.-based customers. We delivered the first aircraft in 2016, and today we stand here celebrating the 50th. We've met our originally announced schedule, and we've fulfilled the commitment we made to our customers, our suppliers across the

country, and this Gulf Coast community."

Daryl Taylor, Vice President & General Manager of the Airbus U.S. Manufacturing Facility praised the team that builds the aircraft. "Team Mobile's hard work and dedication have brought us to this milestone. We've built a great team who together are building great aircraft, meeting challenges head-on and continually seeking ways to improve."

With the delivery this week, the facility also meets its goal to produce four A320 family aircraft a month – known in the aircraft industry as "rate four." Airbus has three other A320 Family production facilities around the world: Toulouse, France; Hamburg, Germany; and Tianjin, China.

Boeing, Avation PLC Deliver Philippine Airlines' 10th 777-300ER

Boeing (NYSE: BA) and leasing company Avation PLC celebrated the delivery of Avation's first Boeing airplane, a 777-300ER (Extended Range), that will be leased and operated by Philippine Airlines. The airplane is seen here, taxiing in Everett. (Tim Stake photo)

EVERETT, Wash., Dec. 15, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- Boeing (NYSE: BA) and leasing company Avation PLC celebrated the delivery of Avation's first Boeing airplane, a 777-300ER (Extended Range), that will be leased and operated by Philippine Airlines.

This airplane is the 10th 777-300ER for Philippines' national carrier.

"The Boeing aircraft will serve our long-haul operations, a move designed to primarily enhance the total passenger travel experience and in-flight service delivery," said Jaime Bautista, PAL president and Chief Operating Officer. "While we already have eight 777s serving the West Coast, the incoming units will also augment other trans-pacific flights." Bautista added that "the Boeing 777 is our flagship for long-haul operations. With its range and operational capability, the flag carrier will be at par with other full service carriers along the route."

"We're pleased our first twin-aisle delivery is a Boeing 777, the marquee airplane in its class," said Jeff Chatfield, executive chairman, Avation. "We're confident this



airplane will complement our regional and single-aisle fleet and help Avation continue to grow as a full-service commercial aircraft lessor."

Philippine Airlines took delivery of its ninth 777-300ER earlier in the week and will use the new airplanes primarily on routes from Manila to North America. The carrier will fly the 777-300ER directly from Everett, Wash. to Vancouver, British Columbia where the airplanes will enter revenue service to Manila.

"Boeing and Philippine Airlines have been strong partners for decades and it is a special occasion today as we deliver their 10th 777-300ER," said Dinesh Keskar, senior vice president, Asia Pacific & India Sales, Boeing Commercial Airplanes. "The 777 continues to outperform by all measures, providing exceptional value to our airline and leasing customers. There is no better testament to this than Philippine Airlines' confidence in its

new 777-300 by putting it directly into service with its flight from Vancouver to Manila."

The 777 is the world's most successful twin-engine, long-haul airplane. The 777-300ER is equipped with the world's most powerful GE90-115B commercial jet engine, and can seat up to 386 passengers in a three-class configuration with a maximum range of 7,825 nautical miles (14,490 kilometers).

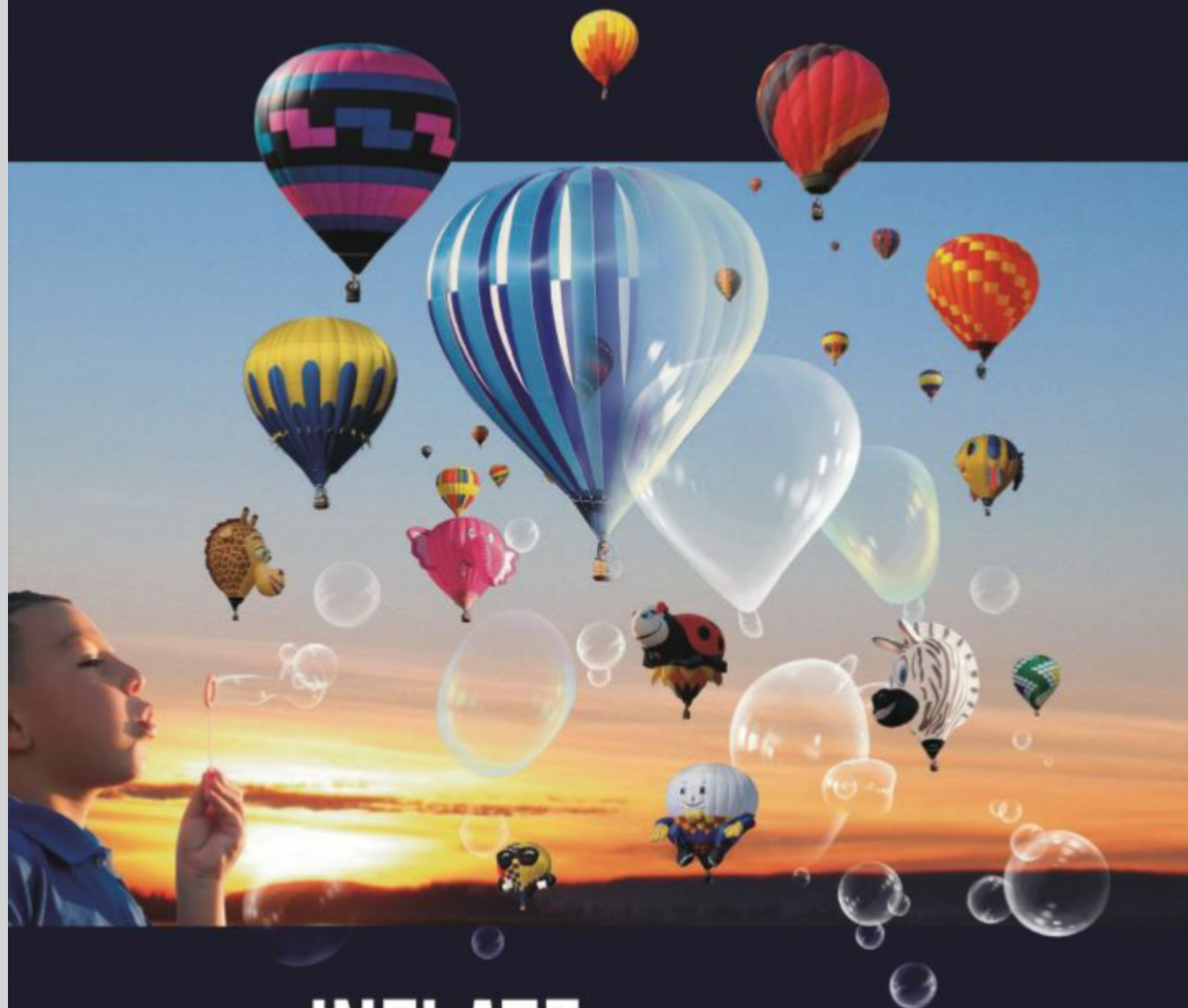
About Avation

Avation PLC is a commercial passenger aircraft leasing company, based in the United Kingdom, owning and managing a fleet of jet and turboprop aircraft which it leases to airlines across the world. The Company's customers include Philippine Airlines as well as Air France, Air India, Condor, Flybe, Fiji Airways, Thomas Cook, Virgin Australia, Mandarin Airlines and Vietjet Air.

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OCTOBER 7-15

Photos for this feature:

Pages 8 through 26 - Gary Rosier

Pages 27 through 35: Marty Stephens



























































SPEEDI'S BLOG

WELCOME TO SPEEDI'S Blog.

This time of the year at Spruce Creek Fly-in, near Daytona Beach, Florida, there are many things going on. Both in the flying community and the local area.

It starts in October with Biketoberfest, then there's Halloween and Thanksgiving. But it is in December and January that the two main Spruce Creek events take place.

In this issue, we have a pictorial report from the first of these events - the annual Spruce Creek Fly-in Toy Parade - this year held on Saturday Dec 9. It's on pages 38 through 65.



The photo above shows me riding my 1959 BSA Rocket Gold Star in the parade - complete with **GOOFY** perched on the handlebars.

The photo below shows the line of golf carts on one side of Cessna Blvd

waiting for the ground parade to start.

The photo bottom right shows one of the 'unique' vehicles in the Parade - a fully motorized John.

There's a bit of a lull over the Christmas period.

In mid-January there's another annual event - the Bonfire. There's no parade at this event but the Spruce Creek Gaggle Flight pilots always put on a spectacular flying exhibition at dusk for the Bonfire guests. Food is provided by the Property



Owners' Association.



Then the motorsport fun starts at the local race tracks - Daytona International Speedway is the major track involved.

The annual Rolex 24 hr race kicks off the two month series of events, leading up to Speed Week - or more particularly Speed Weeks as the main



action spreads over a 2 week period. This year sees the 60th anniversary of the famed Daytona 500 race.

Of course the *Snow Birds* started arriving back at Spruce Creek Fly-in a few weeks ago, for the winter period.

But it's Speed Weeks which bring down a different lot of visitors from the cold cold North of the USA and Canada. Whilst the locals are still in long pants these Northern visitors will be in shorts, however cold the temperature may be.



Once the Speed Weeks are over it's time for the motorcyclists to take over Daytona Beach - Bike Week is an annual event which has been running continuously for some 77 years.

The noise continues to hammer Daytona as following on from Bike Week is the Spring Break period. This is when students from all over the USA descend on the City . . .





N EWS FROM THE Barn is a regular feature about the happenings at the largest (and greatest) fly-in community in the world - Spruce Creek Fly-in. Situated on the Space Coast of Florida, just 7 miles south of the famous Speed City of Daytona Beach, Spruce Creek is a very special place. Our North America editor, Steve Wood, has lived there for since 2001, so he should know. We hope you enjoy this regular feature about a very special aviation community.

Spruce Creek Airport Information - Courtesy of the Spruce Creek POA Website - www.scpoa.com

The Spruce Creek Airport is the heart of the Spruce Creek Fly-In Community. The Airport is a private airport owned and operated by the Spruce Creek Property Owners Association (SCPOA). The Spruce Creek Airport Authority Committee through the SCPOA Board of Directors has the authority and the responsibility to oversee the operation of the Spruce Creek Airport. The SCPOA employs a full time, 24-7 security staff. The Airport runways, taxiways and aircraft parking areas are regularly patrolled and are under continuous video surveillance by the Security staff 24 hour a day.

All flying activities at the Spruce Creek Airport are regulated by the FAA and by the recommended procedures published in the Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM). In addition, a limited number of local rules and procedures have been established to promote a safe and enjoyable airport. All resident, tenants and invitees are encouraged to cooperate and abide by these procedures.

SPRUCE CREEK AIRCRAFT ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE PACKAGE - The airport management provides information to assist all pilots operating in and out of the Spruce Creek Air, viewed or printed with Adobe Reader. [Download PDF](#)

AIRPORT SAFETY VIDEO – The airport management recommends that all Spruce Creek Fly-In residents and airport users view this very good airport safety video. Click [Here](#) Airport Info Quick List:

TEL 386/760-5884 or Airport Manager cell see below.

FAX 386/761-7808 AFTER 1700386/756-6125 (Security)

VORTAC OMN112.6 MHz 165°R/13.9 DME

VORTAC ORL 112.2 MHz 020°R/35.6 DME

FSS St. Petersburg122.2 MHz

APCH CNTRL Daytona Beach ...125.35 MHz (South) 125.8 MHz (North)

INSTR APCH (Rwy 06)GPS (Private, Residence Only)

CTAF..... 122.925 MHz (pilot actuated lights 3-5-7 clicks)

AWOS..... 121.725 MHz

FUEL 100LL & JET A (self serve and truck delivery)

FUEL 386 257-7791 (on field) or 129.925 MHz (forward request to Spruce Creek)

Airport Manager - Joe Friend: 386 872-1430



IN OUR 'News from the Barn' section we will be featuring news and photos from Spruce Creek Fly-in, the world's greatest aviation community. With over 1600 homes, and not all of them are hangar homes, and home to over 3000 people, there are over 650 airplanes based at Spruce Creek. But it's not all about aviation at Spruce Creek - there's golf, tennis, motorcycling and much more, as well as a Country Club and the Downwind restaurant right alongside Beech Boulevard - a major taxiway in the center of the airport. EAA Chapter 288 (Daytona Beech) meets at Keith Phillip's hanger on the

other major taxiway - Cessna Boulevard. Then there's the Gaggle Flight, which is quite something in its own right. Every Saturday morning (and sometimes on Wednesday too) members of the Gaggle Flight meet at The Big Tree which sits right in the middle of the airport. Upwards of 30 aircraft depart in flights of 3 or 4 (and sometimes more) flying out to breakfast. The arrivals back are usually spectacular, with overhead breaks the norm. Our North America editor, Steve Wood, is part of Goofy Flight - named after his GlaStar which has the special registration N-600FY. Steve even

has 'goofy' smoke on his airplane which can 'puff' or be continuous at whim. Everyone has great fun at Spruce Creek Fly-in which perhaps explains why there's a sign inside the main entrance which reads "Caution - Children And Adults At Play".



Photos for this feature by Gary Rosier



Spruce Creek Toy Parade 2017







NEWS FROM THE BARN

*SPRUCE CREEK FLY-IN
THE WORLD'S GREATEST AVIATION COMMUNITY*

















































NEWS FROM THE BARN

SPRUCE CREEK FLY-IN
THE WORLD'S GREATEST AVIATION COMMUNITY

Until Next Year . . .





44th























































































ELECTRIC ROAD TRIP: JAGUAR I-PACE COMPLETES FINAL TESTING IN LOS ANGELES AHEAD OF 2018 REVEAL

Los Angeles, USA, 6 December

2017: One year on from showing the I-PACE Concept at the LA Auto Show, Jaguar is back in town with a production prototype for final range and durability tests ahead of its official global reveal in 2018.

- Jaguar I-PACE enters final validation testing ahead of global reveal in early 2018
- Pricing and specifications will be announced and order books open for full configurations in March 2018
- Over 200 production prototypes have completed 1.5 million miles and 11,000 hours of testing

Thousands of potential customers have pressed the 'I want one' button on www.jaguar.com to place a deposit or register a strong interest in the hotly anticipated electric SUV. Not only will they be at the front of the queue when



order books officially open in March, but a lucky few have been chosen to accompany Jaguar's engineers as prototype vehicles complete final validation tests.

Ann Voyer from Pasadena asked Jaguar if the I-PACE would have enough range to complete her favourite road trip along California's West Coast. To answer her question, Jaguar engineers took her on a long-distance range test – on one charge only. The I-PACE production prototype drove 200 miles from Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, to Morro Bay, San Luis

Obispo, on a single charge of its advanced Lithium-Ion battery.

Ian Hoban, Jaguar Vehicle Line Director, said: *"After 1.5 million global test miles, the I-PACE is ready for production and is proven to deliver long distances on a single charge. Jaguar's first battery electric vehicle will also be fast to charge; our target is a zero to 80 per cent charge being achievable in a short break."*

Full specification and pricing for Jaguar's electric performance SUV will be announced in March 2018 when order books will officially open.

A CRAFTSMANSHIP SHOWCASE: THE BENTLEY CONTINENTAL GT FIRST EDITION

Exclusive First Edition model is the ultimate expression of legendary Grand Tourer

Specification curated by the award-winning Bentley design team

High specification includes Bentley Rotating Display

Unique Dual Veneers available as standard, including exclusive Grand Black

Mulliner Driving Specification, City Specification and Touring Specification help create the most luxurious Grand Tourer ever

(Crewe, 29 November 2017) Bentley Motors has created an exclusive First Edition of the all-new Continental GT. This ultimate expression of the Grand Tourer represents the pinnacle of Bentley craftsmanship, handcrafted and designed in Great Britain.

Exquisitely appointed, the interior specification of the Bentley Continental GT First Edition has been painstakingly curated by the Bentley design team. The new model combines all the finest features available on the third generation Continental GT, brought

together to create the most luxurious Grand Tourer ever produced.

A stunning showcase of technology and design, the First Edition includes the unique Bentley Rotating Display. This system enables the driver to seamlessly switch between three different fascia panels to suit the mood of the cabin. The default 12.3" touchscreen can

enhanced by mood lighting and illuminated sills emblazoned with 'Bentley', visible when opening the doors.

Mirroring the performance of the new Grand Tourer's 6.0-litre, twin turbocharged W12 TSI engine; the Mulliner Driving Specification is also included with the First Edition. This driver-focused collection adds

drilled alloy foot pedals, jewel-finish oil and filler caps, and unique, 22" wheels, available in bright paint, black and hand polished or fully polished finishes.

The specification is complemented by diamond-in-diamond quilt pattern on seats,

door panels and rear quarter panels, all featuring a unique contrast stitch only available with the First Edition.

Other key additions to the ultimate list of standard equipment include the City Specification and Touring Specification, with features such as park assist, pedestrian warning and traffic sign recognition. The Bentley 650 watts audio system can be upgraded with either the Bang & Olufsen system of 1500 watts, or for the true audiophile the top-of-the-range Naim audio system with 2200 watts.

Discreet Union Flag First Edition badging throughout the interior and exterior of the Continental GT identify the car's exceptional credentials, in addition to a unique Union Flag tread plate plaque.



be substituted with a more classically styled instrument display if preferred; one that features three analogue dials. When the engine is off, the third veneer-only face is displayed for an uninterrupted flow of wood right across the dashboard.

Customers can choose from one of four unique Dual Veneers for the dashboard fascia. These beautiful wood options include Tamo Ash, Liquid Amber, Dark Stained Madrona and Dark Fiddleback Eucalyptus, always combined with Grand Black, which is exclusive to the First Edition.

These exceptional finishes help create the impression of even more space inside an already sumptuous cabin, and complement a striking interior design that is beautifully



ROLLS-ROYCE PHANTOM NAMED 'LUXURY CAR OF THE YEAR' BY BBC TOP GEAR MAGAZINE

28.11.2017

The Rolls-Royce Phantom has earned BBC Top Gear Magazine's coveted 'Luxury Car of the Year', just weeks after its global media launch on the banks of Lake Lucerne in Vitznau, Switzerland. Rolls-Royce Phantom wins coveted award just weeks after global media debut

Described by critics as "so quiet it's almost an anechoic chamber" The Rolls-Royce Phantom has earned BBC Top Gear Magazine's coveted 'Luxury Car of the Year', just weeks after its global media launch on the banks of Lake Lucerne in Vitznau, Switzerland.

Referred to by the cognoscenti as 'the best car in the world', the eighth generation Phantom continues to earn plaudits from the world's most prestigious and discerning critics. This accolade follows statements that Phantom "Is the pinnacle, the epitome, of motoring luxury" (Autocar), "Is an all-new version of the finest car in the world" (The Independent), "Utterly defines luxury" (PistonHeads) and "Has changed what a car can be" (GQ).

Phantom, which is the oldest nameplate in automotive history, represents Rolls-Royce's tireless pursuit of perfection. An all-new and proprietary aluminium spaceframe, 6mm two-layer glazing and more than 130kg of sound insulation combine to create the most silent motor car in the world.

Naming Phantom its Luxury Car of the Year, Top Gear Magazine wrote:

"For a car of such generous size and weight, the Phantom is so quiet it's almost an anechoic chamber"

Torsten Müller-Ötvös, Chief Executive Officer, Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, commented, "Phantom points the way forward for the global luxury industry. It is a creation of great beauty and power, a dominant symbol of wealth and human achievement. It is an icon and an artwork that embraces the personal desires of each of our individual customers. That this is recognised by Top Gear Magazine and the rest of the world's media is deeply gratifying and a reflection of the skill and passion of everyone who created this truly unique example of pinnacle luxury."

The new 2018 E-Class Cabriolet

All-Season Comfort & Practicality

Nov 20, 2017 – Atlanta

Now on sale at U.S. dealers, the all-new E-Class Cabriolet is poised for any change in season. Available for the first time with 4MATIC all-wheel drive, the E-Class Cabriolet also boasts AIRCAP® wind deflector and AIRSCARF® neck-level heating technology to enhance comfort when driving with the top down.

The new E-Class Cabriolet four-seater combines pure, elegant design with long-distance comfort for four occupants and the latest E-Class technology. When the soft top is up, the E-Class Cabriolet has a silhouette similar to that of the E-Class Coupe and displays the same expressive proportions and clean lines. The 'hot and cool' design idiom represents both elegance and intelligence, and shapes the appearance of the Cabriolet, which nevertheless exudes a unique character - especially when the soft top is down.

Open-air driving comfort all year

Maximum open-air comfort makes the E-Class Cabriolet a pleasure to drive. Mercedes-Benz was the first manufacturer to bring neck-level heating to market with AIRSCARF® technology, which makes top-down driving enjoyable even at low temperatures by circulating warm air around the neck area in cooler weather. The available AIRCAP® system was developed specifically for Mercedes-Benz

cabriolets and consists of an electric wind deflector inconspicuously integrated into the roof frame and an electric wind blocker behind the rear seats. At the press of a button, this system reduces the interior turbulence for the rear passengers as well. A number of additional features make the E-Class Cabriolet suitable for all seasons and weather conditions:

Available 4MATIC all-wheel drive MAGIC VISION CONTROL® - the intelligent and highly efficient wash/wipe system for the windscreen - is heated when the outside temperature falls to prevent snow or ice from sticking in winter. Starting at \$66,300 for the E400 Cabriolet and \$68,800 for the E400 4MATIC Cabriolet (not including \$995 destination & delivery), the E-Class Cabriolet joins a range of convertibles in the Mercedes-Benz lineup. The extensive Mercedes-Benz Cabrio family includes the smart electric drive cabriolet, C-Class Cabriolet, recently redesigned S-Class Cabriolet, SLC, SL and AMG GT and GT C Roadsters and the ultra-exclusive Mercedes-Maybach S650 Cabriolet.

Premium-class fabric soft top

With the new E-Class Cabriolet, Mercedes-Benz is continuing its tradition of high-caliber cabriolets with a classic fabric soft top. Available in dark brown, dark blue, red or black, the fully automatic acoustic soft top features sophisticated insulation that reduces wind and driving noise at highway



speeds. The soft-top structure and insulation has an equally positive effect on climate control and comfort, making the Cabriolet suitable for use year-round.

Even with the top down, the trunk capacity offers a high level of everyday practicality, with enough space to store luggage for a weekend getaway. The 50:50 folding rear seat backrests create a through-loading feature in the interior - another advantage when it comes to daily driving.

Larger and more luxurious: interior comfort for four

Compared with its predecessor, the new E-Class Cabriolet has grown in length, width, wheelbase, and boasts a wider track. Its considerably larger footprint benefits passengers in the rear in particular. On each of the four high-quality seats - which all feel like individual seats in their own right - passengers can all enjoy true comfort even on long journeys.

The luxurious seats for all four occupants feature a sporty sculpted individual-seat character. Standard-fit automatic belt presenters for the front seats help the occupants to fasten their seat belts.



Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este 2018: Event organisers establish more categories for historic cars and motorcycles.

21.12.2017

Event categories for all manner of classic vehicles, whether equipped with four, three, or two wheels, reflect the broad spectrum of the history of mobility +++ Selecting committees are still accepting registrations +++ BMW Group Classic und Grand Hotel Villa d'Este to host the exclusive car pageant on Lake Como from May 25th to May 27th 2018 +++ Theme of the beauty contest is "Hollywood on the Lake".

Munich/Cernobbio. At the Concorso d'Eleganza Villa d'Este 2018 in the Northern Italian municipality of Cernobbio the overriding theme is "Hollywood on the Lake". From the 25th to the 27th of May 2018 the grounds of the Grand Hotel Villa d'Este and the gardens belonging to the Villa Erba on Lake Como will become the perfect cinematic backdrop to this magnificent event. The "script" for the historical automobile and motorcycle beauty pageant is now starting to come together. Responsibility for choosing participants lies with the selecting committees who have created four more categories in which the glamorous main protagonists can compete for the attention of both public and jury.

Experts have chosen to combine the announcement of the categories with

a final call to aspiring performers for the as-yet unfilled roles in this magnificent production. BMW Group Classic has hosted the pageant of rare beauties on Lake Como in conjunction with the Grand Hotel Villa d'Este since 2005. Thanks in no small part to its choice field of entrants, it is generally recognised to be the world's most exclusive beauty competition for historic motor vehicles. The final categories now reflect the full spectrum of the history of both the automobile and the motorcycle.

Now in its eighth year, the Concorso di Motociclette in Cernobbio has created six categories for participants, five of which have already been confirmed.



FORD RETURNS HOME TO LOOK FORWARD; BRINGING SELF-DRIVING AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE TEAMS TO DETROIT

DETROIT, Dec. 14, 2017 – Ford Motor Company today reveals plans to move its key autonomous vehicle and electric vehicle business and strategy teams to the city where the company got its start.

Ford is moving the teams to a historic building known as The Factory – a recently refurbished industrial complex with a rich 110-year history – in Detroit's Corktown neighborhood. The Motor City location, which will be up and running early next year, will enable Ford teams to immerse themselves in urban mobility challenges and solutions.

neighborhoods to accelerate our work on electric and autonomous vehicles," said Jim Hackett, Ford president and CEO. "This move and our exciting Dearborn campus transformation are important steps as we move toward our aspiration to become the world's most trusted mobility company – designing smart vehicles for a smart world."

The Corktown location holds special meaning for Executive Chairman Bill Ford, whose ancestors emigrated from County Cork, Ireland, to the Dearborn, Michigan, area years ago. Corktown, Detroit's oldest neighborhood, derives its name from immigrants from County Cork who settled there.

"Returning to Detroit is particularly meaningful, because it is where my great-grandfather originally set out to pursue his passion and where we

"We're excited to choose this inspirational location in one of Detroit's resurgent

have always called our home," said Ford. "We are planting a special piece of our company's future in one of the city's great neighborhoods, because we believe in Detroit, its people and what we can build together."

The move is more than a relocation – it's a strategic decision aligned with a mission. The company is committed to helping improve the entire system of transporting people and goods, especially in cities facing major challenges such as congestion, pollution, accidents and other transportation issues that affect everything from productivity to quality of life.

"Having these teams together in a dedicated facility in the heart of Detroit is truly a full-circle moment for Ford," said Jim Farley, Ford executive vice president and president, global markets. "It's such a conducive environment for sharing ideas, for collaboration, and for accelerating our electric vehicle efforts. We have such a great team, and we'll be hearing more from them in the coming months."

GONE CRUISIN'

Gary's Hot Rods & Cruisers



Welcome to Gone Cruisin', our regular feature on the cruisin' scene brought to you by Gary Rosier. Primarily from in and around Central Florida, but we'll be including interesting events around the USA. More pics from Gary at <http://www.carsplaneslandscapes.com/>









































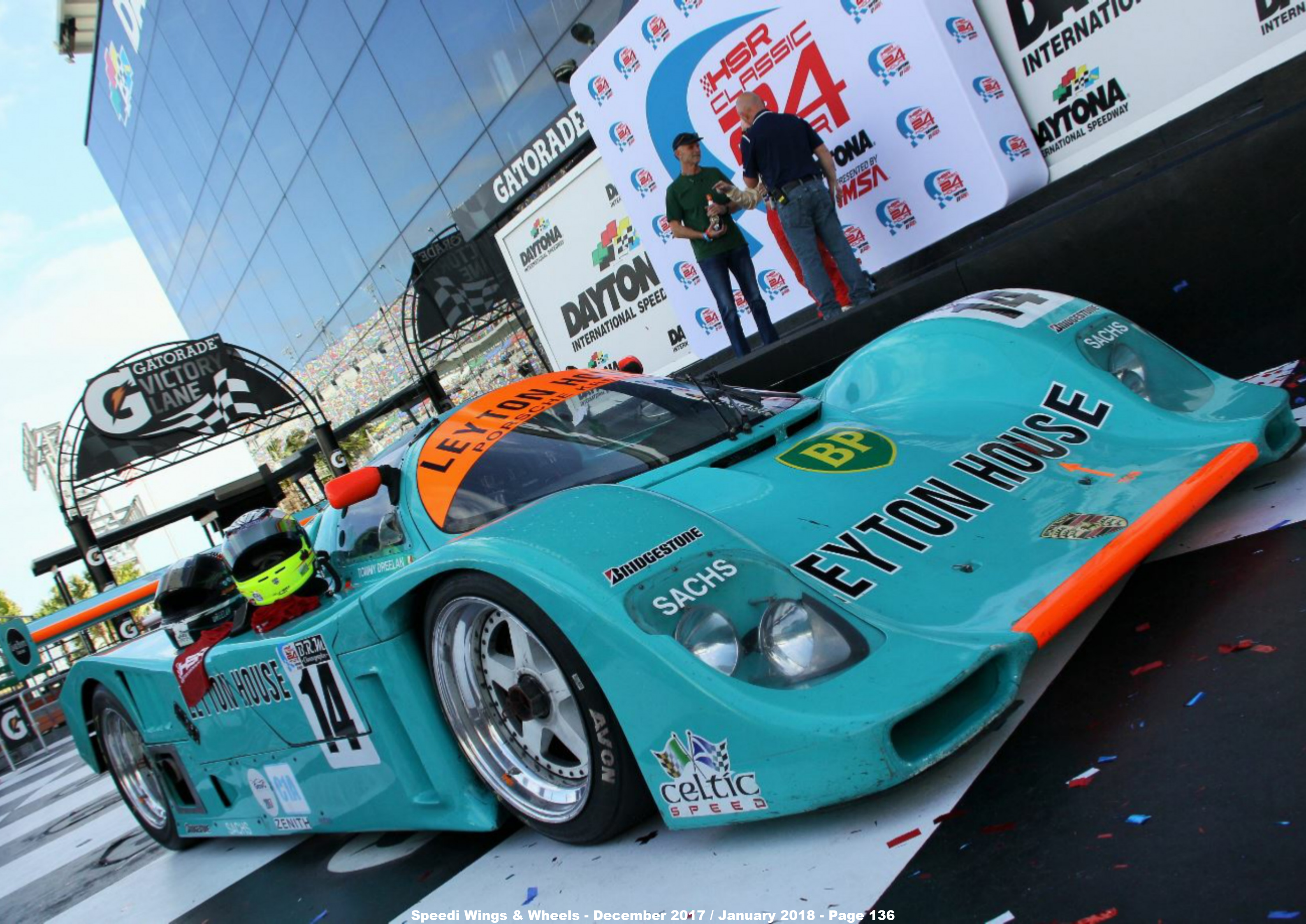








Photos by Gary Rosier











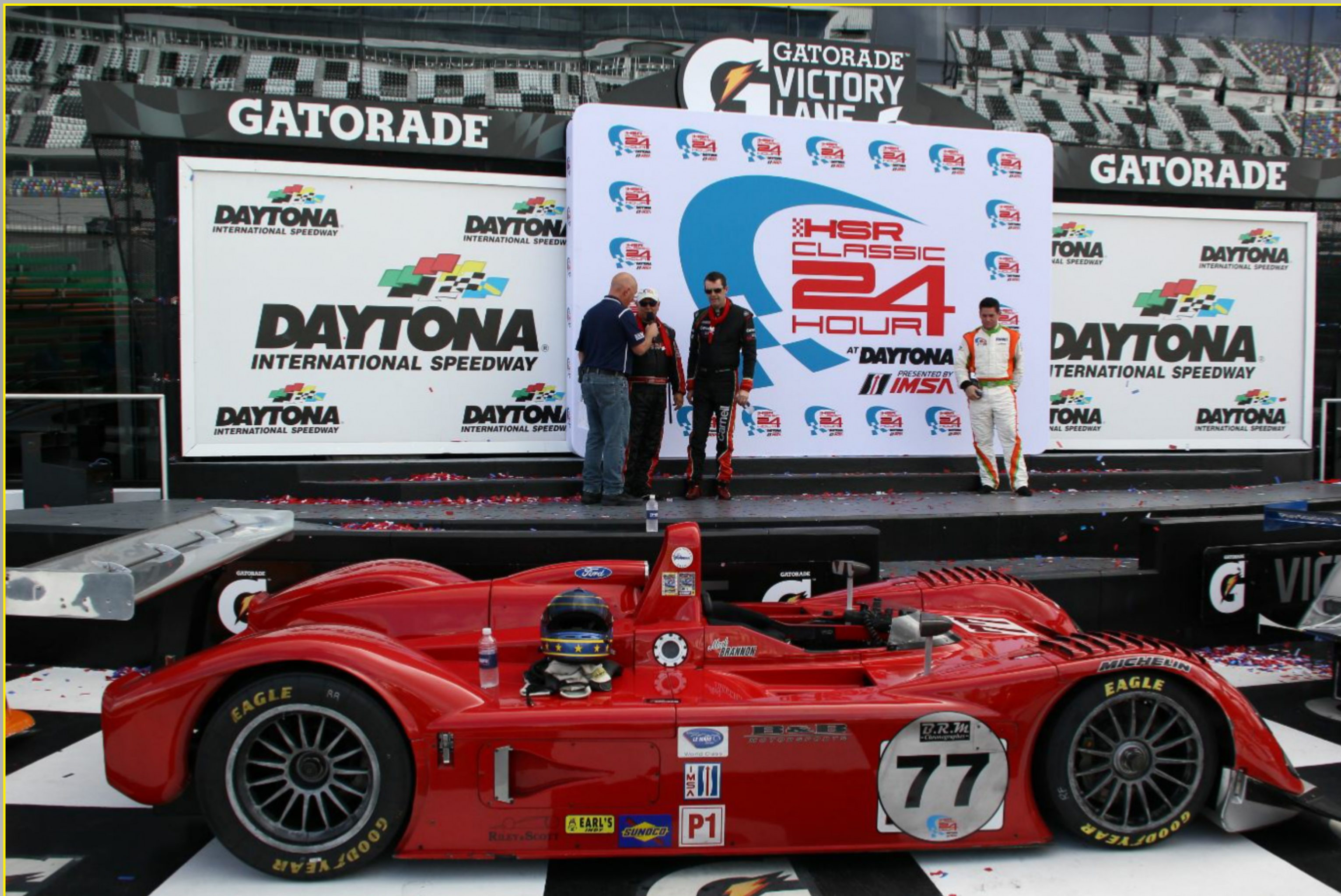


































































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