



Speedi

Wings & Wheels

December 2025 / January 2026

Issue No: 83

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THIS ISSUE: [Fall Turkey Run](#) and Much More

**NEW FORMAT
VIDEO LINKS**

SPEEDI'S BLOG

WELCOME TO
SPEEDI'S Blog.

Apologies for still being way behind in the publication of Speedi Wings & Wheels . . .

Finally, at long last the aircraft registration debacle of Goofy has been resolved - almost 6 months after my agent messed up things by not notifying me, or the FAA, of a change of address. The Government shutdown also resulted in long delays by the FAA in dealing with my correspondence with them. Finally, on January 21, 2026 they renewed the registration certificate. Now all I have to do is the renew my medical and BFR as there was little point in doing this when I did not have an aircraft to fly.

Instead I decided on a challenge during this down time - to fly around the world as quickly as possible of airline ZED passes.

My first attempt going westbound just before Christmas came to an end in San Francisco as there were no seats available on the American Airlines flight from Los Angeles to Sydney. So I headed eastbound to the UK with the intention of being there for Christmas. I made it to London but public transport was shut down for 2 days for Christmas Day and Boxing Day. So I decided to head to Rome, Italy for couple of days. When I arrived there the weather was poor so I looked to see if I could continue my round the world flight eastwards.

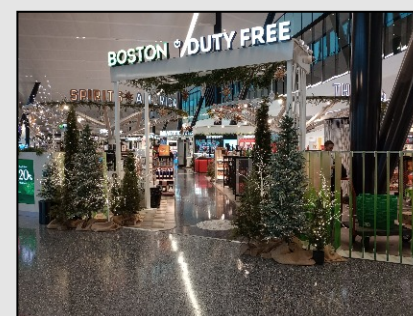
I then looked at my options and found that I could get from Rome to Doha in Qatar on Qatar Airways, and from there I hoped to get to Sydney and onwards to the USA and back to the UK. It turned out that there were no seats from Doha to Sydney and then onward to Los Angeles.

However I was able to route to Singapore with Qatar Airlines and then with Cathay Pacific to Hong Kong and onwards with them to San Francisco. The last segment of the RTW flight was with British Airways on a direct flight from SFO to London Heathrow. I completed the RTW trip in less than 80 hours which was a much shorter time than the classic Round the World in 80 Days balloon adventure.

With it being Christmas time I got to see a variety of Christmas decorations in the 11 airports I visited during the flight. Starting, below, with my home airport, Daytona Beach



Boston, USA, below:



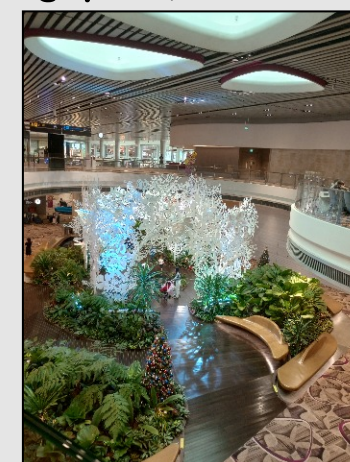
London, Heathrow, below:



Doha, Qatar, below:



Singapore, below:



Finally, above, is the Harry Potter Christmas display at Kings Cross station, in London, UK

Charlotte, USA, below:



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A green and red aurora streams across Earth's horizon above the city lights of Europe in this Jan. 19, 2026, photograph, which looks north across Italy toward Germany. The International Space Station was orbiting 262 miles above the Mediterranean Sea at approximately 10:02 p.m. local time when the image was captured.

Also known as the northern lights (aurora borealis) or southern lights (aurora australis), auroras are colorful, dynamic, and often visually delicate displays of an intricate dance of particles and magnetism between the Sun and Earth called space weather. When energetic particles from space collide with atoms and molecules in the atmosphere, they can cause the colorful glow that we call auroras.

Image credit: NASA/Chris Williams

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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 2025 / January 2026 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.



Delta Air Lines Orders up to 60 Boeing 787 Dreamliners to Grow, Modernize Widebody Fleet

In this issue we are featuring a look a visit to the Fall Turkey Rub - 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*

7 *Fall Turkey Run*

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Speedi Wings & Wheels

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Bristow Signs Launch Agreement with Electra to Secure First Delivery Slot for EL9 Aircraft

MANASSAS, Va. and HOUSTON, Jan. 21, 2026 /PRNewswire/ -- Electra.aero, Inc. (Electra), the aerospace company pioneering Direct Aviation, and Bristow Group Inc. (NYSE: VTOL), the global leader in innovative and sustainable vertical flight solutions, signed a Pre-Delivery Payment (PDP) deposit agreement with binding terms and conditions aligned to the commercial aviation industry standard, subject to aircraft certification, securing the first delivery slot for Electra's EL9 Ultra Short hybrid-electric aircraft, capable of carrying nine passengers with baggage or 3,000 pounds of cargo for 330 nautical miles, and has a maximum ferry range of 1,100 nautical miles with IFR reserves.

Electra's EL9 Ultra Short unlocks entirely new opportunities for regional mobility, with unprecedented point-to-point access and dramatically reduced travel times

Electra's EL9 Ultra Short unlocks entirely new opportunities for regional mobility, with unprecedented point-to-point access and dramatically reduced travel times

By securing the earliest EL9 deliveries with its PDP agreement, Bristow confirms the Company's leadership role in shaping the future of Direct Aviation, positioning itself to offer customers unprecedented point-to-point access, dramatically reduced travel times, and entirely new opportunities for regional mobility. Bristow and Electra have worked



150 feet will allow Bristow to open new transportation options, strengthening airline networks and significantly reducing travel times.

"Bristow has a long and respected track record of safely operating complex missions

together for five years, starting with a pre-order agreement in 2021. The parties have now converted their pre-order LOI into a fixed agreement for five EL9 delivery slots, all to be delivered in the EL9's first year of production. By reserving these early slots, Bristow has secured unmatched early access to an aircraft set to redefine how people and goods move.

The PDP agreement includes option rights for Bristow to another 45 aircraft at the same fixed terms.

Bristow plans to deploy the EL9 across turnkey mobility solutions for corporate customers, premier destinations and resorts, major and

regional airlines, and government agencies operating essential public service routes.

With more than seven decades of experience operating complex helicopter and fixed-wing missions for corporate and government customers around the world, Bristow has a proven history of integrating next-generation aviation technologies. The EL9 Ultra Short's ability to take off and land in just

in some of the most demanding environments on earth," said Marc Allen, CEO of Electra. "We are proud to welcome Bristow as an EL9 Launch Customer. By reserving five delivery slots in the EL9's first year of production, to include slot one, they have made a powerful statement of confidence in Electra, our EL9 aircraft, and the future of Direct Aviation. We could not imagine a stronger or more capable partner to lead the introduction of this transformative mode of advanced air mobility that will give communities, travelers, and airlines access to fast, flexible, and sustainable transportation."

NASA Adds Two F-15 Aircraft to Support Supersonic Flight Research

Jan 15, 2026

Two retired U.S. Air Force F-15 jets have joined the flight research fleet at NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center in Edwards, California, transitioning from military service to a new role enabling breakthrough advancements in aerospace.

The F-15s will support supersonic flight research for NASA's Flight Demonstrations and Capabilities project, including testing for the Quesst mission's X-59 quiet supersonic research aircraft. One of the aircraft will return to the air as an active NASA research aircraft. The second will be used for parts to support long-term fleet sustainment.

"These two aircraft will enable successful data collection and chase plane capabilities for the X-59 through the life of the Low Boom Flight Demonstrator project" said Troy Asher, director for flight operations at NASA Armstrong. "They will also enable us to resume operations with various external partners, including the Department of War and commercial aviation companies."

The aircraft came from the Oregon Air National Guard's 173rd Fighter Wing at Kingsley Field. After completing their final flights with the Air Force, the two aircraft arrived at NASA Armstrong Dec. 22, 2025.

"NASA has been flying F-15s since some of the earliest models came



out in the early 1970s," Asher said. "Dozens of scientific experiments have been flown over the decades on NASA's F-15s and have made a significant contribution to aeronautics and high-speed flight research."

The F-15s allow NASA to operate in high-speed, high-altitude flight-testing environments. The aircraft can carry experimental hardware externally – under its wings or slung under the center – and can be modified to support flight research.

Now that these aircraft have joined NASA's fleet, the team at Armstrong can modify their software, systems, and flight controls to suit mission needs. The F-15's ground clearance allows researchers to install instruments and experiments that would not fit beneath many other aircraft.

NASA has already been operating two F-15s modified so their pilots can operate safely at up to 60,000 feet, the top of the flight envelop for

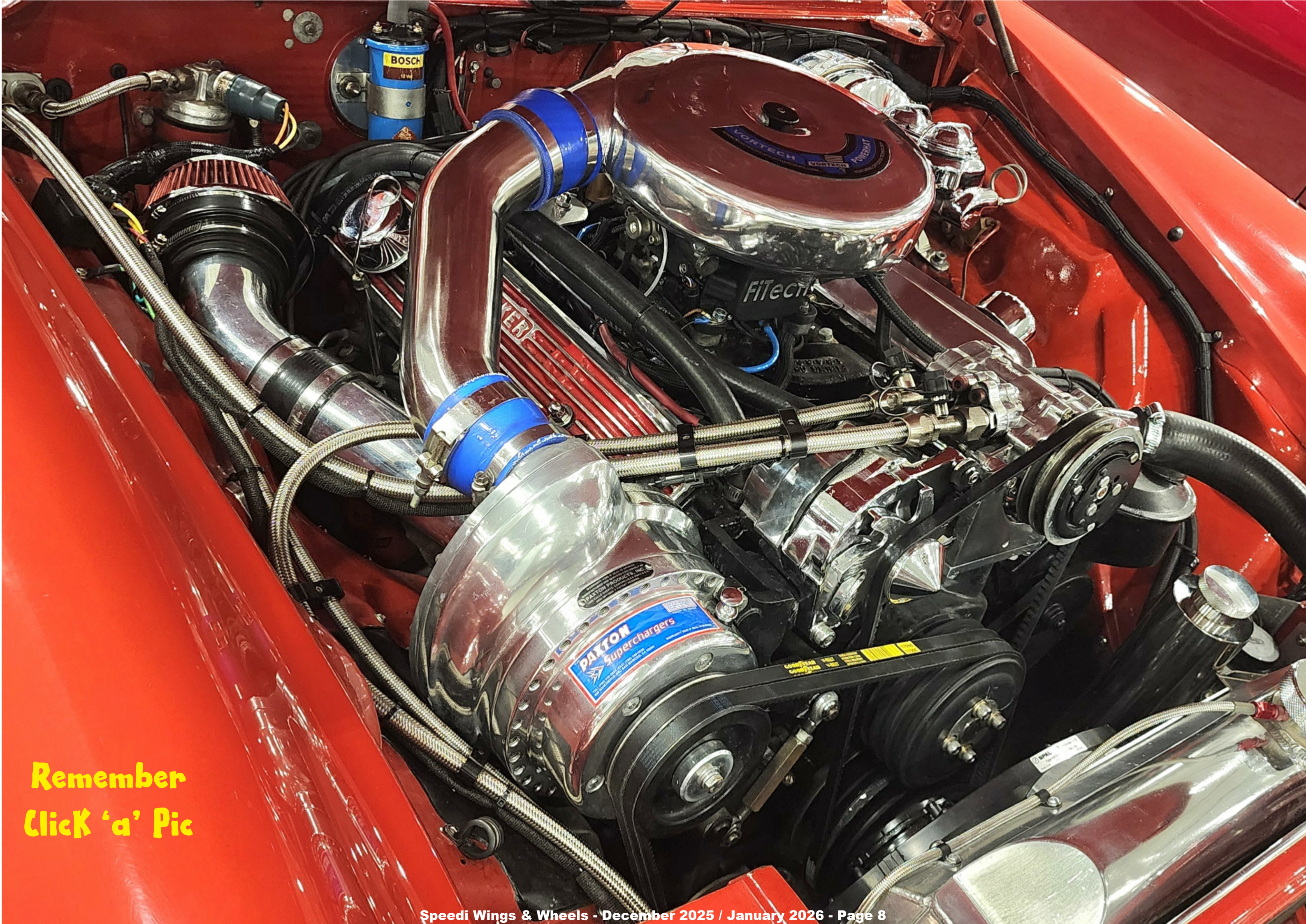
the X-59, which will cruise at 55,000 feet. The new F-15 that will fly for NASA will receive the same modification, allowing for operations at altitudes most standard aircraft cannot reach. The combination of capability, capacity, and adaptability makes the F-15s uniquely suited for flight research at NASA Armstrong.

"The priority is for them to successfully support the X-59 through completion of that mission," Asher said. "And over the longer term, these aircraft will help position NASA to continue supporting advanced aeronautics research and partnerships."

Fall Turkey Run



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NEW 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](#)

Here's a link to Spruce Creek Airport (7FL6) web page - click [here](#)

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](#)

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

FAX 386/761-7808 AFTER 1700 386/756-6125 (Security)

VORTAC OMN112.6 MHz 165°R/13.9 DME

VORTAC ORL 112.2 MHz 020°R/35.6 DME

FSS St. Petersburg 122.2 MHz

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

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

Runways: 06 / 24 - 4000 ft x 150 ft

CTAF..... 122.725 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 - Jim Stone ... 386 275-1894



NEWS FROM THE BARN

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

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".



Here's a look at the planes at Spruce Creek Fly-in ready for a Young Eagles event

Photos by Gary Rosier . . .

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NEWS FROM THE BARN

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

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Mercedes-Benz Vision Iconic: A masterpiece for a new iconic era

Oct 14, 2025 – Stuttgart/Shanghai

Show car inspired by the brand's rich heritage and designed for its future

Infused with the latest technologies including Solar Paint, Level 4 automated driving and neuromorphic computing, Vision Iconic perfectly blends beauty and technology

Stunning chrome grille reinterprets visual presence for the electric and digital age

Interior presents hyper-analog luxury paired with a lounge-like feel

An exclusively designed capsule collection of six carefully designed outfits for men and women translates the essence of the show car into fashion

Mercedes-Benz has entered a new era of iconic design. Representing this evolution, the Vision Iconic show car embodies the freedom to think beyond convention – a creative expression that introduces new perspectives and bridges past and future. A central feature is the reinterpretation of one of the most recognizable elements in automotive history: the Mercedes-Benz radiator grille. This iconic grille, first introduced with the all-new electric GLC, expresses both emotion and intelligence, and enables Mercedes-

Benz to stand out from the sea of sameness.

"Vision Iconic embodies our vision for the future of mobility. With groundbreaking innovations such as neuromorphic computing, steer-by-wire, solar paint and Level 4 highly automated driving, along with state-of-the-art technology, we are setting new standards for the electric and digital age. This beautiful vehicle is



a testament to our commitment to making the mobility of tomorrow a reality today."

Markus Schäfer, Member of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz Group AG,

Chief Technology Officer, Development & Procurement

"Inspired by the golden era of automotive design of the 1930s, this show car embodies the pure essence of Mercedes-Benz. With its hood giving it a majestic presence, sculptural flowing lines and a touch of Art Deco, it rises to become a true icon of automotive beauty. The interior with its continuous bench seat and the elegant rear, evoking memories of the legendary 300 SL.

Our Vision Iconic is more than just an automobile – it is a sculpture in motion, an homage to timeless elegance and a statement for the future. The symbiosis of traditional craftsmanship, state-of-the-art technology and an unmistakable design language makes it the ultimate expression of value, prestige and grace:

the most beautiful, most prestigious kind of thing."

Gorden Wagener, Chief Design Officer Mercedes-Benz Group AG

Reimagining the iconic grille for a new era

The front is defined by the iconic grille. It is a striking, forward-looking homage to the traditional chrome grille, which as a key design element has shaped the face of

Mercedes-Benz for over 100 years. The iconic grille draws inspiration from the upright grilles of legendary models such as the W 108, W 111 and the Mercedes-Benz 600 Pullman.

With its wide chrome frame, smoked-glass lattice structure and integrated contour lighting, the iconic grille merges heritage with digital modernity. It radiates visual presence and a strong sense of Mercedes-Benz identity. This new face of the brand was first introduced with the all-new electric GLC in September 2025. Vision Iconic builds on this strong presence by even illuminating the standing star on the hood.

Highest level of safety: MINI Cooper Electric wins Euro NCAP Best in Class.

January 15, 2026 Press Release

At the renowned Euro NCAP "Best in Class Awards 2025," the fully electric MINI Cooper is once again honoured, triumphing as the safest vehicle in its class.

Munich. The fully electric MINI Cooper - which has already been awarded 5 stars in the Euro NCAP crash testing in March 2025 - has once again received outstanding recognition from the esteemed Euro NCAP institute: the "Best in Class for Safest City & Supermini of the Year 2025." This prestigious award emphasises MINI's leading position in safety within the premium small car segment. With its three variants - MINI Cooper E, MINI Cooper SE, and MINI John Cooper Works Electric - the model impresses not only with its electric drive technology and characteristic go-kart feeling, but also with its comprehensive standard safety equipment.

Jean-Philippe Parain, Head of the MINI brand, emphasises: "We are very pleased about yet another accolade for the MINI Cooper Electric, which has just won the Euro NCAP Best in Class. This award is another compelling confirmation that MINI models offer outstanding safety. The MINI Cooper, as well as the MINI Countryman and MINI Aceman, have been rated with the maximum number of stars. This underlines our commitment to ensuring both



driving pleasure and maximum safety standards."

Euro NCAP praises the consistent advancement in occupant protection, active and passive safety systems, as well as innovative driver assistance technologies that make urban driving safer. The fully electric MINI Cooper features an integrated safety concept with comprehensive occupant protection, standard pelvic seatbelt pretensioners, and a wide range of assistance systems to prevent accidents.

Protection of pedestrians and cyclists also achieves a very high score for this vehicle class, tallying 77 percent in the 2025 Euro NCAP crash test. Safety ratings are also outstanding with 89 percent in occupant protection, 87 percent in child safety, and 79 percent in safety assist systems.

The combination of top-level safety, driving enjoyment, and iconic design makes the second generation

of the fully electric MINI Cooper the ideal vehicle for today's demands of urban mobility.

GONE CRUISIN'

Gary's Hot Rods & Cruisers



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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.



All photos for this feature: Gary Rosier

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