Special Wheels Wings & Wheels

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**October / November 2023** 

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**News** 

**Events** 

NEW FORMAT VIDEO LINKS

THIS MONTH:

Festival of Speed 2023

Reno Air Races 2013

Spruce Creek Spot Landing Contest

and Much More

# HISPEEDI'S BLUG

SPEEDI'S Blog.

News from NASA in the past few days is that astronaut Frank Borman has passed away at the age of 95.

Borman was the commander of the first Apollo moon mission. This was Apollo 8, the historic Christmas 1968 flight that circled the moon 10 times and paved the way for the lunar landing the following year.

The Astronaut and his crew were the very first people to see Earth as a distant sphere in space.



Frank Borman was selected as a NASA Astronaut in the second group in 1962. He was a veteran of the Gemini 7 space orbital rendezvous mission with Gemini 6 before being named as the commander of Apollo 8, the first lunar orbital mission, in 1968. This is something I remember vividly, and never did I think I would end up reporting on the Space Shuttle missions from Cape Canaveral when I decided to buy a holiday home at Spruce Creek Fly-in, not that far from the Space Centre.

After he retired from NASA and the Air Force in 1970, Borman became senior vice president for operations at Eastern Air Lines. He became chief executive officer of Eastern in 1975, and chairman of the board in 1976. Under his leadership, Eastern went through the four most profitable years in its history, but airline deregulation and the additional debt that it took on to purchase new aircraft led to pay cuts and layoffs, and

ultimately to conflict with unions, resulting in his resignation in 1986. He moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico, where he ran a Ford dealership with his son, Fred. In 1998, they bought a cattle ranch in Bighorn, Montana.



The photo above shows the father & son duo with Frank on the right.

Frank & Fred were looking for a new challenge and boy did they find it!

Of course the Montana connection is why Frank Borman passed away in at a retirement community in Billings, Montana. Borman died just one week after fellow astronaut Ken Mattingly, who helped >

> bring Apollo 13 home following an onboard explosion.

Things are certainly very busy at Cape Canaveral. It used to be only a handful of launches each year but this changed dramatically with the coming of Space X and their reusable launch vehicles.

But it's not just SpaceX launching from Cape Canaveral. United Launch Alliance is also starting to ramp up its launch schedule for its Vulcan rockets.

ULA plans to launch its first Vulcan Centaur rocket on Christmas Eve, carrying a commercial lunar lander.



The company announced Oct. 24 that the launch of the Cert-1

mission, the inaugural flight of the Vulcan Centaur, is scheduled for Dec. 24 from Cape **Canaveral Space Force** Station in Florida. The mission will carry Peregrine, a commercia robotic lunar lander developed by Astrobotic, as well as a payload of human ashes from space memorial company Celestis that will remain attached to the rocket.

It's just over 11 years ago that I had the experience of a lifetime during a press visit to Cape Canaveral.

The final Space Shuttle mission had just been completed and Atlantis was decommissioned ready for display at the Kennedy Space Center visitor complex.

A handful of journalists were allowed to go aboard Atlantis and actually sit in the commanders seat with all the instruments 'fired up'. It was an unusual procedure to access the

commanders seat. A foam mattress was

placed between the pilot and co-pilot seats, over a bank of switches. To get into the Commander's seat you had to kneel on this mat, grasp two hand holds (with strict instructions not to touch the HUD) and pull yourself into position.



Photo above - in the commander's seat



Photo above: The co-pilot's position



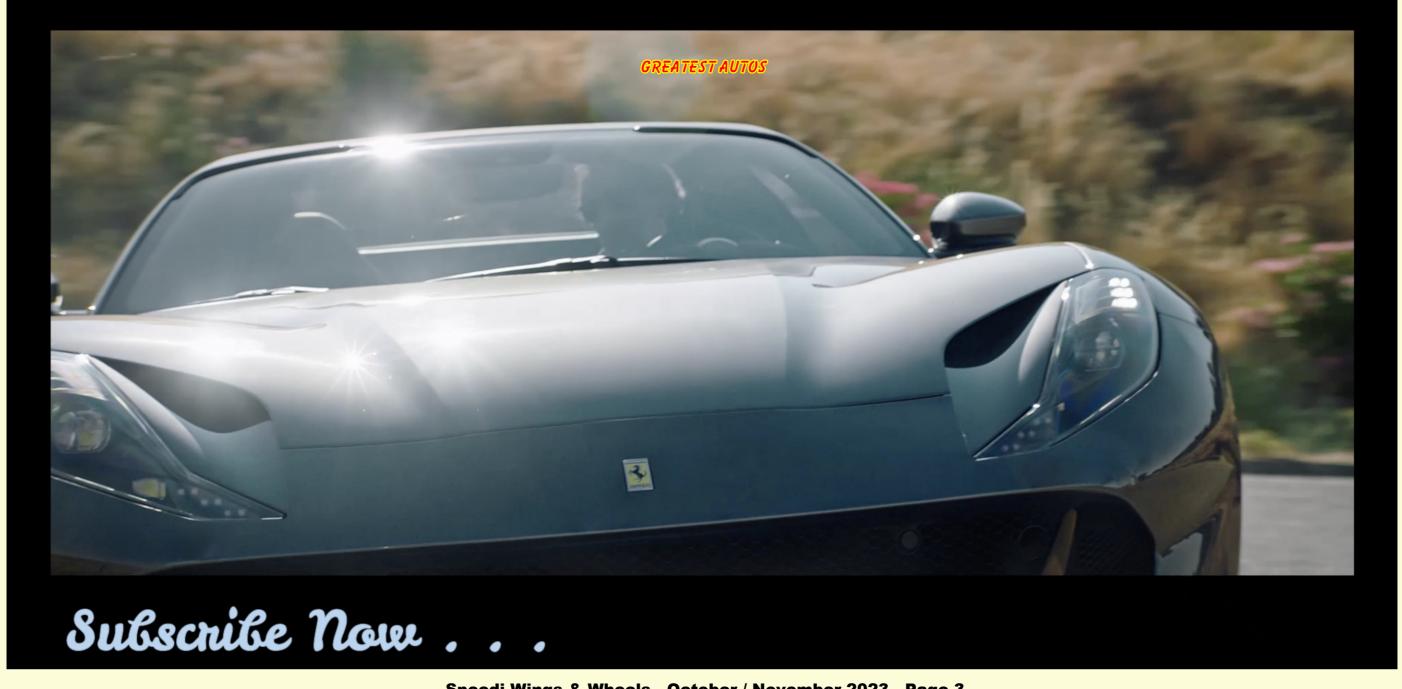
Photo above: The co-pilot's instrumentation



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The Moon Passes in Front of the Sun

The Moon passes in front of the Sun on October 14, 2023 during the annular solar eclipse in this photograph taken by Expedition 70 Flight Engineer Jasmin Moghbeli aboard the International Space Station.

Image Credit: NASA / Jasmin Moghbeli



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# 8 & 12 Reno Air Races - 2013





- **8** Reno Air Races 2013 Part 1: A look back 10 years to the Reno Air Races in 2013. Photos from Jim 'Flybum' Pratt . . .
- **12 Reno Air Races 2013 Part 2:** A look back 10 years to the Reno Air Races in 2013. Photos from Gary Rosier . . .
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**Contest - 2023:** A look at the annual Spruce Creek Spot Landing Contest, 2023 from Spruce Creek Fly-in. Gary Rosier was there to snap the action . . .

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### NASA Administrator Honors Life of Apollo Astronaut Frank Borman



Nov 9, 2023

The following is a statement from NASA Administrator Bill Nelson on the passing of former NASA astronaut Col. (ret.) Frank Borman, who passed away Nov. 7, in Billings, Montana, at the age of 95.

"Today we remember one of NASA's best. Astronaut Frank Borman was a true American hero. Among his many accomplishments, he served as the commander of the Apollo 8 mission, humanity's first mission around the Moon in 1968.

"His lifelong love for aviation and exploration was only surpassed by his love for his wife Susan.

"Frank began his career as an officer with the U.S. Air Force. His love of flying proved essential through his positions as a fighter pilot, operational pilot, test pilot, and assistant professor. His exceptional experience and expertise led him to be chosen by NASA to join the second group of astronauts.

"In addition to his critical role as commander of the Apollo 8 mission, he is a veteran of Gemini 7, spending 14 days in low-Earth orbit and conducting the first
rendezvous in space, coming within
a few feet of the Gemini 6
spacecraft.
an operational pilot and instructo
an experimental test pilot and an
assistant professor of
Thermodynamics and Fluid

"Frank continued his passion for aviation after his time with NASA as the CEO of Eastern Airlines.

"Frank knew the power exploration held in uniting humanity when he said, 'Exploration is really the essence of the human spirit.' His service to NASA and our nation will undoubtedly fuel the Artemis Generation to reach new cosmic shores."

California. In 1967 he the Apollo Board, investigation to the causes three astrongers spacecraft, reminiscen

A hero of the American Space Odyssey, Frank Borman led the first team of American astronauts to circle the moon, extending man's horizons into space. He is internationally known as Commander of the 1968 Apollo 8 Mission. A romance with airplanes that began when he was 15 years old, took Frank Borman to the Air Force and then to NASA.

A career Air Force officer from 1950, his assignments included service as a fighter pilot,

an operational pilot and instructor, an experimental test pilot and an assistant professor of Thermodynamics and Fluid Mechanics at West Point. When selected by NASA, Frank Borman was instructor at the Aerospace Research Pilot School at Edwards AFB, California.

In 1967 he served as a member of the Apollo 204 Fire Investigation Board, investigating the causes of the fire which killed three astronauts aboard an Apollo spacecraft, reminiscent of the Challenger

tragedy. Later he became the Apollo Program Resident Manager, heading the team that reengineered the Apollo spacecraft. He also served as Field Director of NASA's Space Station Task Force. Frank Borman retired from the air Force in 1970, but is well remembered as a part of this nation's history, a pioneer in the exploration of space and a veteran of both the Gemini 7, 1965 Space Orbital Rendezvous with Gemini 6 and the first manned lunar orbital mission, Apollo 8, in 1968.



## Volocopter Soars Under the Blue Skies of Tampa

Tampa, FL/Bruchsal, 2 November 2023: Tampa International Airport (TPA), ranked the #1 Large Airport in J.D. Power's North America Airport Satisfaction Study, and Volocopter, the pioneer of urban air mobility (UAM), have successfully kicked off a multilayered flight test campaign with a crewed Volocopter 2X. This marks the first-ever flight test of an electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft in an operational and large international airport in the U.S., and the first eVTOL test in the state of Florida.

The flight test campaign consisted of aircraft downwash and outwash testing with the U.S. Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) and performance testing in local environmental conditions. Media, partners, and guests were invited to the event with a clear view of the public on location. The invitees included Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Jared Purdue, Mayor of Tampa Jane Castor, and leaders from Congress who are supporting UAM industry growth, regulatory advancement, and acceleration of public acceptance of eVTOLs in the U.S.

EVTOL is a new category of electric aircraft that focuses on short- to medium-range flights, transporting people and goods within or connecting to an urban environment. The UAM segment is being targeted by electric propulsion aircraft (rather than other forms of alternative fuel-based aircraft) due to ease of operations and noise considerations for urban



use cases. Volocopter will start commercial services with a certified and shared air taxi service in the heart of megacities around the world. The quiet, safe, and sustainable operations of a certified eVTOL will not only provide efficient transportation, reduce congestion, but also kickstart the decarbonization of the aviation industry.

Stateside, Volocopter recently announced its partnership with the Bristow Group to begin operations of eVTOLs in the near future, with Florida being one of the targeted areas of operation. Since 2018, Volocopter has flown in Las Vegas, Oshkosh, Dallas-Fort Worth area, and Tampa. Continued and visible flight test campaigns in view of the public are crucial steps to building an efficient UAM ecosystem that receives the communities' support. This includes cities, for instance, the partnership with Urban Movement Labs in Los Angeles since 2021, infrastructure

developers, operators, air traffic authorities, and lawmakers to push this new form of electric urban aviation to scale in the U.S.

### About Volocopter

Volocopter brings urban air mobility (UAM) to megacities worldwide. We aim to improve the quality of life for people in cities by offering a fantastic new mode of transportation. For that, we create sustainable and scalable UAM ecosystems with partners in infrastructure and operations.

Volocopter's family of eVTOL aircraft will offer passengers (VoloCity and VoloRegion) and goods (VoloDrone) swift, secure, and emission-free connections to their destinations, supported by VoloIQ, the UAM ecosystem's software platform that serves as its digital backbone for safe and efficient operations.











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### NEWS FROM THE BARN

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

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

VORTAC OMN ......112.6 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, Residence Only)

AWOS...... 121.725 MHz

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

Airport Manager - Jim Stone ... . 386 275-1894

### NEWS FROM THE BARN

N 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 major taxiway in the center of the 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 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 of Goofy Flight - named after his Gaggle Flight meet at The Big Tree which sits right in the middle of the registration N-600FY. Steve even 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 "Caution - Children And Adults At GlaStar which has the special 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 Play".

Remember Here's a look at the planes at Spruce Creek Fly-in on a Saturday in October 2023. Click 'a' Pic



























# SPRUCE CREEK SPOT LANDING CONTEST - 2023





# AutoNews

**Top Titbits of Auto News** 

www.speedi.tv

Market launch of the new BMW 5 Series Sedan and the first BMW i5. BMW 5 Series Touring available from spring 2024 with identical range of drives.

18.10.2023

Following the initial sales launch in South Korea, the new BMW 5 Series Sedan and the first BMW i5 Sedan are now coming to dealers in Germany and numerous other markets. The new BMW 5 Series Touring will be available with the same

Munich. Following the initial sales launch in South Korea, the new BMW 5 Series Sedan and the first BMW i5 Sedan are now coming to dealers in numerous other markets. In Germany, the first vehicles will be delivered to customers from 21 October 2023.

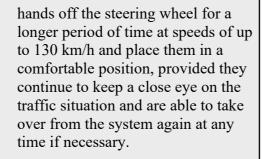
range of drives from

spring 2024.

The market launch also begins in the  $\,$  combined:  $20.6 - 18.2 \, kWh/100 \, km$ other European countries on the same day. One week later, on 28 October 2023, the new edition of the BMW 5 Series will make its road debut in the USA. The other global markets will follow on 25 November 2023.

The eighth generation of the world's most successful business sedan will also be offered for the first time as an all-electric BMW i5. Even before sales have begun, incoming orders show that this model variant in particular is meeting with high

customer demand and will thus further accelerate the ramp-up of electric mobility pushed by BMW. Right from the start, customers can choose from two variants of the BMW i5. The new BMW i5 eDrive40 Sedan (power consumption combined: 18.9 - 15.9 kWh/100 km according to WLTP) features an output of up to 250 kW/340 hp and a range of 498 to 582 kilometres determined in the WLTP test cycle. The top model of the entire series is the BMW i5 M60 xDrive Sedan with up to 442 kW/601 hp (power consumption



The intensive experience of semiautomated driving is complemented by the Automatic Lane Change. With this globally unique function, a glance in the exterior mirror is enough to trigger a lane change, which is then carried out

> automatically by the system.

The new generation of the BMW 5 Series Touring will celebrate its world premiere in spring 2024. The second body variant of the new BMW 5 Series will be available with the same range of drives as the new BMW 5 Series Sedan. This means that the new BMW 5 Series Touring is the first premium car of its kind

to be offered with highly efficient combustion engines including 48volt mild hybrid technology, plug-in hybrid systems and, for the first time, an all-electric drive. The unique combination of sporty elegance, modern functionality and locally emission-free driving pleasure is developed specifically for the automotive markets in Europe as well as in Japan and Taiwan.



according to WLTP).

The new BMW 5 Series Sedan emphasises its progressive character not only with the two all-electric model variants, but also with innovative digital services for in-car gaming, audio and video streaming, among other things, as well as with particularly high-grade driver assistance systems. The highlight in the field of systems for automated driving and parking is the Highway Assistant, which now also enables drivers in Germany to take their

### The new Mercedes-AMG GLE 53 plug-in hybrid: Powerful performance in everyday life



Oct 23, 2023 – Affalterbach. Combustion engine and electric motor deliver 536 hp peak system total output 31.2 kWh battery enables all-electric driving Newly developed chassis for balanced dynamic driving experience

"With the GLE 53 HYBRID as an SUV and coupe, we offer a unique combination of agility, driving pleasure and purely electric range. In addition to our high-performanceoriented E PERFORMANCE hybrid vehicles, these two GLE innovations form an additional pillar in our future-oriented portfolio. This means we are expanding our broad model range to include another attractive drivetrain variant and are addressing new target groups." Michael Schiebe, Chairman of the

Management Board of Mercedes-AMG GmbH and Head of Business Units Mercedes-Benz G-Class & Mercedes-Maybach

The basis for the dynamic driving experience is the AMG-enhanced 3.0-liter inline six-cylinder engine, which is specially tuned for use in the GLE 53 HYBRID. Updated software and an additional heat

443 hp output – a 14 hp increase. The hybrid system's electric motor provides electric boost for a particularly spontaneous response, eliminating the need for an electric auxiliary compressor.

The AMG-enhanced engine is combined with a 134 hp electric motor, 31.2 kWh capacity battery and AMG Performance 4MATIC+ fully variable all-wheel drive. The high power density of the hybrid power unit is achieved by the permanently excited internal rotor synchronous technology. The 354 lb-ft of torque from the electric motor is available nearly instantly and ensures high agility even when accelerating from a standstill.

The peak system total output of 536 hp and 553 lb-ft of torque enable impressive driving performance. Acceleration from 0 to 60 mph takes just 4.6 seconds and only ends at an electronically limited speed of 155 mph. All-electric driving at speeds up to 87 mph is also possible under certain conditions. An 11 kW AC and 60 kW DC on-board charger is provides impressive charging times.

### **AMG DYNAMIC SELECT drive** programs

The AMG DYNAMIC SELECT drive programs are precisely calibrated to the plug-in hybrid powertrain and adjust important parameters including, the response of the drive and transmission, steering characteristics, chassis damping and sound. By default, the GLE 53 HYBRID starts silently in the "Electric" drive program when the electric motor is switched on. exchanger contribute to the engine's 
The "Ready" icon in the instrument

cluster indicates the vehicle is ready to drive.

In addition to the familiar drive programs ("Comfort," "Sport," Sport+," "Slippery" and "Individual") there are two hybridspecific drive programs in the new GLE 53 HYBRID. With the "Electric" drive program, all-electric driving takes place from a standstill up to 87 mph. If the battery runs down or the driver requests more power, the combustion engine starts up and briefly takes over the drive power.

In the "Battery Hold" program, the combustion engine and electric motor run as the situation demands with a maximum boost of approximately 25 percent, as in the "Comfort" drive program. The key difference is the operating strategy keeps the battery state of charge constant. For example, if the battery is at 75 percent charge, it remains in this range in "Battery Hold." Use of the electric motor is then limited and optimized for low energy consumption, which is compensated by recuperation. Drivers can decide when to make full use of the battery charge again simply by changing the drive program.

When driving on all-electric power, the Acoustic Vehicle Altering System informs others the performance hybrid is approaching. A specially composed, lowfrequency and speed-modulated AMG sound is emitted to the outside via a speaker at the front and a soundbar with two speakers at the rear. The sound can also be heard at a subdued level in the interior as acoustic feedback for passengers.

















More motorsport news & photos from Daytona Beach, Speed City USA.





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