



# Speedi

## Wings & Wheels

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June / July 2025

Issue No: 80

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THIS ISSUE:

Gatornationals 2025

and Much More

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# **SPEEDI'S BLOG**

**W**ELCOME TO  
SPEEDI'S Blog.

No Speedi's blog in this  
issue.

A second total engine  
failure in GOOFY and  
another off-airport  
landing, this time  
missing high tension  
power lines by just a few  
feet. This not something  
I wish to experience  
again - but the cause of  
the failure is a total  
mystery . . .

I will explain more in the  
next issue.



Ou4: The Giant Squid Nebula

Image Credit & Copyright: Massimo Di Fusco

Explanation: Difficult to capture, this mysterious, squid-shaped interstellar cloud spans nearly three full moons in planet Earth's sky. Discovered in 2011 by French astro-imager Nicolas Outters, the Squid Nebula's bipolar shape is distinguished here by the telltale blue emission from doubly ionized oxygen atoms. Though apparently surrounded by the reddish hydrogen emission region Sh2-129, the true distance and nature of the Squid Nebula have been difficult to determine. Still, one investigation suggests Ou4 really does lie within Sh2-129 some 2,300 light-years away. Consistent with that scenario, the cosmic squid would represent a spectacular outflow of material driven by a triple system of hot, massive stars, cataloged as HR8119, seen near the center of the nebula. If so, this truly giant squid nebula would physically be over 50 light-years across.

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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 June / July 2025 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 a look back at the 2025 Gatornationals - 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*

Qantas takes delivery of its first Airbus A321XLR



# 7 *Gatornationals 2025*

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## Wings & Wheels

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## Airbus A400M Firefighting Kit completes a successful test campaign in France

Paris, 26 June 2025 – Airbus Defence and Space announced today the successful completion of a series of test drops and demonstrations of its A400M firefighting demonstrator kit in Nîmes-Garons, France.

The objective of this test campaign was to conduct an independent assessment of the effectiveness of the A400M firefighting kit. The tests were conducted by the Entente-Valabre’s Test and Research Centre (CEREN), a French public institution authorised and approved by the Ministry of the Interior to assess forest firefighting equipment, training personnel in France and abroad, and which is an international authority in this field.

The test campaign, which ran at the end of April 2025, involved the A400M performing multiple drops over a designated section of the airfield. These rigorous so-called cup grid tests allowed the CEREN to precisely assess the system's capabilities, including the accurate distribution and concentration of retardant upon reaching the ground. During the drops, the aircraft reached altitudes under 30 meters (98 feet) and speeds around 230 km/h (125 knots).

The A400M Roll-on/Roll-off (Ro-Ro) firefighting kit offers unique operational advantages previously unavailable on the market. Its innovative roll-on/roll-off design requires no permanent modification to the aircraft, allowing any A400M

in a fleet to be rapidly converted for firefighting missions on very short notice. The system, housed in the

with the rapid deployment capabilities of this kit, offers a game-changing asset to complement



cargo hold, can discharge up to 20,000 liters of water or retardant by gravity through the rear ramp, with tanks capable of being refilled in less than 10 minutes using standard ground pumps. Furthermore, the A400M's inherent ability to take off and land on short and unpaved runways significantly enhances its flexibility, enabling operations from a wide range of air bases and airfields closer to fire zones. Its design also supports high maneuverability and potential for day and night operations under the latest safety standards.

“Following initial tests conducted in Spain, the successful completion of these tests in Nîmes is a crucial step forward in our ambition to shape an ecosystem of firefighting capabilities. The A400M's exceptional versatility, combined

existing technologies and platforms on the ground, in air and in space” said Jo Müller, Head of Sustainability and Communications, Airbus Defence and Space.

Airbus Defence and Space continues to promote a comprehensive range of aerial firefighting solutions that cover both indirect and direct fire attack missions, aligning with its commitment to decarbonization and contributing to the fight against the escalating global challenge of wildfires.

## NATO orders two additional Airbus A330 MRTT aircraft and welcomes Sweden and Denmark to the Multinational Fleet

Getafe, June 24, 2025 – The NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA) has ordered two additional Airbus A330 Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) aircraft, increasing the Multinational MRTT Fleet (MMF) to 12 aircraft. The two additional aircraft will be delivered in 2028 and 2029. This expansion coincides with the formal accession of Sweden and Denmark to the MMF programme, further strengthening European strategic autonomy and collaborative defence capabilities.

Sweden and Denmark's addition to the MMF programme expands the base of participating nations and reinforces European sovereignty in

critical defence capabilities. Funded by the Netherlands, Luxembourg, with the progressive incorporation of Norway, Germany, Belgium and the Czech Republic, the MMF programme allows these nations the exclusive right to operate the NATO-owned aircraft in a pooling arrangement providing commonality, interoperability and cost efficiency, a prime example of European operational defence collaboration.

"The expansion of the Multinational MRTT Fleet with two additional aircraft and the addition of Sweden and Denmark to the programme underscores Europe’s commitment to collective defence and strategic autonomy,” said Jean-Brice Dumont, Head of Air Power at Airbus Defence and Space. “Airbus is proud to contribute to this effort by delivering state-of-the-art A330 MRTTs produced and converted in

our Toulouse and Getafe facilities. This collaboration exemplifies how European industry can respond effectively to evolving security challenges through innovation and cooperation.”

The Airbus A330 MRTT is a state-of-the-art aircraft that seamlessly integrates air-to-air refuelling, strategic airlift, and medical evacuation capabilities. With a fuel capacity of up to 111 tonnes, it can conduct long-range missions, supporting NATO operations across Europe and beyond. Its wide-body fuselage enables it to transport up to 300 troops or a payload of up to 45 tonnes. Additionally, the aircraft can be configured with a dedicated Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) kit that can accommodate stretchers and intensive-care stations. Since its introduction, the A330 MRTT has participated in important missions, including enhanced air policing and aerial surveillance, ensuring the territorial integrity of allied nations.

The A330 MRTT combines advanced technology with more than 325,000 hours of operational experience as a strategic tanker. The aircraft is the world’s first tanker certified for boom automatic air-to-air refueling (A3R), which enhances safety and efficiency during missions. These features, along with its proven performance, establish the A330 MRTT as a reliable and versatile asset that holds 90% of the new-generation tanker market outside the USA with 84 orders from 17 customers.





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**N**EW 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](http://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 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, 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





I 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 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 on a Saturday in June 2025.

Photos by Gary Rosier . . .

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## DIPPED IN BLACK: NEW RANGE ROVER SPORT SV BLACK GETS MONOCHROME TREATMENT FOR ULTIMATE SPORTING LUXURY

2 July 2025

Building on the Range Rover Sport SV's reputation as the ultimate luxury performance SUV, this introduction – which will be available to order later in 2025 – celebrates the timeless appeal of an all-black aesthetic, building on a specification already hugely popular among Range Rover Sport clients. Distinctive black finishes, including for the first time, the Range Rover SV roundel and brand badges on the front grille, deliver a bold and defiant interpretation of stealth-like, sporting luxury.

Range Rover Sport SV Black takes on an even more purposeful character for the marque. Every detail on the exterior has been transformed with a Gloss Black finish, bringing an even more commanding attitude to the most powerful Range Rover Sport ever.

Range Rover Sport SV Black represents the essence of sporting luxury; a statement of audacious rebellion. We've created a vehicle that combines pure power and performance with a gritty, uncompromising attitude that demands attention. Range Rover's design team has gone beyond anything we've offered previously with black packs or options, giving every single exterior and interior element a sophisticated Narvik black treatment; it appears to the eye, as if the vehicle has been dipped in gloss. We extend this attention to detail to new finishes for the first time on Range Rover, truly showcasing our craftsmanship.

Martin Limpert

Global Managing Director, Range Rover

Range Rover Sport SV Black takes sporting attitude to the next level. A dynamic and assertive take on the all-black theme, Range Rover Sport SV Black commands attention with its Narvik Black body and full Narvik Gloss Black Exterior Pack,

which accentuates its muscular stance and focused presence.

Amplifying the full monochrome finish is a black-painted carbon fibre bonnet, and Gloss Black Forged 23-inch alloy wheels with Gloss Black brake calipers and Gloss Black quad exhausts. Black is exquisitely expressed in every application – in particular with the new black ceramic SV roundel on the tailgate.

Range Rover Sport SV is the most powerful and dynamic Range Rover Sport ever, blending supreme performance and dynamism with peerless Range Rover capability, refinement and reductive design. Its array of performance enhancing technologies includes the most advanced suspension system in its class – 6D Dynamics Suspension, and 'Body and Soul Seats' a sensory audio system with wellness benefits.

Powered exclusively by a 635PS, 750Nm 4.4litre Twin Turbo MHEV V8 petrol engine, Range Rover Sport SV Black is capable of accelerating from 0-60mph in 3.6 seconds and a top speed of 180mph.

## Porsche announces three new 911 model variants with all-wheel drive and 473 hp

07/02/2025

Porsche is expanding the 911 model range with three all-wheel drive models for the 2026 model year: The 911 Carrera 4S coupe and Cabriolet, as well as the Targa 4S. All three models gain more power, improvements in standard equipment and enhanced brakes compared to their predecessors. With their arrival, the range of new 911 models with all-wheel drive grows to six variants.

**Atlanta.** Porsche is expanding the 911 model range with three new variants. The 911 Carrera 4S is available as a coupe and Cabriolet. Together with the Targa 4S, they bridge the gap between the standard 911 Carrera – which is not available with all-wheel drive – and the significantly more powerful GTS models. Like on the rear-wheel drive 911 Carrera S models, additional options for individualization and extended standard equipment are distinguishing features.

All-wheel drive variants are popular among customers buying a 911 "S" variant. In fact, within that specific subset, almost half in the U.S. choose a model powering all four wheels. The three new model variants continue to offer customers a great degree of choice within the 911 product range to meet varied use cases and demands. As with every other model equipped with Porsche Traction Management (PTM), the torque split is rear-biased by default.

If required, PTM directs more torque to the front axle. As on its predecessors, the front differential is water cooled and uses an electromechanically controlled clutch.

**Improved performance**  
The new all-wheel drive variants of the 911 adopt the upgraded engine of the Carrera S. Its 3.0-liter twin-turbo six-cylinder boxer engine produces 473 hp (353 kW) and 390 lb.-ft. of torque. That is 30 hp (22 kW) more than in the predecessor. This increase in performance is partly due to the optimized intercooling, the design of which comes from the 911 Turbo. An eight-speed Porsche dual-clutch transmission (PDK) transmits power to all four wheels. The 911 Carrera 4S coupe accelerates from 0 to 60 mph in 3.1 seconds using Launch Control with the optional Sport Chrono Package, and is capable of a top track speed of 191mph.

**Upgraded standard equipment**  
Porsche has significantly enhanced the standard equipment for the Carrera 4S and Targa 4S models.

From a performance perspective, the improvements include Sport Exhaust with tailpipes in silver, brakes taken from the previous generation 911 Carrera GTS models measuring 408 mm on the front axle and 380 mm on the rear axle. Upgraded dampers with optimized hydraulics are more responsive and improve ride quality over the preceding model. Performance-focused standard features of the prior model remain, including Porsche Torque Vectoring Plus (PTV+) and staggered 20/21-inch Carrera S wheels. Porsche Ceramic Composite Brakes (PCCB) are available as an option, as is PASM Sport Suspension, which lowers the ride height by 10 mm. Rear axle steering is optionally available on the Carrera 4S and Carrera 4S Cabriolet. The system offers increased agility at low speeds and greater stability at high speeds. If equipped, this system also includes a quicker steering ratio and revised front axle kinematics. The 911 Targa 4S has rear-axle steering as standard.





# 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.



## Tallahassee Auto Museum

All photos for this feature: Gary Rosier





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