

# Speedi

Wings & Wheels

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News

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Features

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October / November 2024

Issue No: 76

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**NEW FORMAT  
VIDEO LINKS**

THIS ISSUE:

Drag Strip Riot

Festivals of Speed 2024

Mecam Summer Auctions

and Much More

# SPEEDI'S BLOG

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

Once again publication of Speedi Wings & Wheels has been delayed due to a combination of events.

Firstly there's the ongoing matter of dealing with the affairs of my in-laws following their deaths a few months ago, and only 2 months apart. It is staggering how much time I am having to devote to dealing with this matter.

But the most recent reason for the delay was having to travel over to Florida to deal with the aftermath of hurricane Milton, and then being unable to find seats at short notice on planes back to the UK. It was also a challenge to get out of the UK thanks to a massive seat sale by British Airways who then passed on their over-sales passengers to American Airlines.

Talking of American Airlines, the reason for my preference is that they are one of only 2 international airlines flying into my local airport of Daytona Beach. But the presence now of Norse Atlantic into the transatlantic market, particularly now with direct flights from London to Florida, may change my thoughts about routes.

Norse Atlantic Airways AS is a Norwegian low-cost, long-haul airline headquartered in Arendal, Norway. Founded in February 2021, the airline operates a fleet of Boeing 787 aircraft between Europe, North America, Africa and Asia. Its inaugural flight took place on 14 June 2022 from Oslo Gardermoen Airport to New York City's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

The route I would likely fly would be from London Gatwick direct to Orlando in Florida.



Of course there is then the matter of getting from Orlando up to Daytona Beach, and MCO is a far busier airport to contend with.

Interestingly, back in November 2023, a Norse Airways Boeing 787 became the first Dreamliner, and largest aircraft, ever to land in Antarctica.



The photo, bottom left, shows the Norse Airways, CEO Bjørn Tore Larsen, in front of their B787 'Everglades' at Troll airfield.

Troll Airfield is an airstrip located 6.8 kilometres from the research station Troll in Princess Martha Coast in Queen Maud Land, Antarctica. Owned and operated by the Norwegian Polar Institute, it consists of a 3,300-by-100-metre runway on glacial blue ice on the Antarctic ice sheet.

Flight N0787 was no regular passenger route. The 45 passengers included scientists from the Norwegian Polar Institute, which had contracted the flight to take them and 12 tons of equipment to the Troll research station in Queen Maud Land, Antarctica.

It was no quick hop across the ocean, either. The plane



departed Oslo on November 13, 2023, stopping in Cape Town for over 48 hours before heading further south on Wednesday night, 16 November, to make its record-breaking landing.

The Dreamliner's ample cargo space made it the ideal aircraft for the flight, said Daniel Carey of Aircontact, the broker which arranged the flight. Its fuel efficiency was also a factor, said Paul Erlandsson, field service representative at Boeing. The aircraft

made it to Antarctica and back to Cape Town without needing to refuel.

In January 2022, a Boeing 767 belonging to Icelandair made a trip to Troll. The journey involved a lot of planning due to the unique conditions, and involved 6 pilots, 13 crew and 1 flight engineer.

From Iceland the team flew non-stop to Cape Town and then onwards it flew the 4,332km south to Troll in 5 hours and 43 minutes.

Airbus announces Canadian H160 type certification

Fort Erie, ON, Airbus Helicopters has received Transport Canada Civil Aviation (TCCA) type certification of the H160 helicopter, positioning the aircraft type for entry into the Canadian market.

“The H160’s multi-mission capabilities and advanced features contributing to safety, comfort, and efficiency, have already generated strong interest across North America,” said Bart Reijnen, Airbus Helicopters Head of the North America region. “The TCCA certification marks yet another major milestone for the helicopter industry in Canada and raises the bar on innovative technology, not only in Canada, but also across the continent.”



### The Important Details:

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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 October / November 2024 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.

NASA Image of the Day:

An 'Orange' Blue Moon . . .

Clouds curling around the full "blue" moon gives the night sky an eerie feel in this image from Aug. 19, 2024. As seen here, a blue moon is not actually blue; the third full moon in a season with four full Moons is called a "blue" moon.

Credit: NASA/Ben Smegelsky



In this issue we are featuring at a recent Mecam Auctions event in Kissimmee, Florida - 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 Mecam Auctions - Summer 2024

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# Speedi Wings & Wheels

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## Boeing Completes First Flight of UK E-7 Wedgetail

- \* UK E-7 programme marks significant milestone in the test and evaluation phase
- \* More than 100 people are modifying three 737 NGs in Birmingham, UK
- \* E-7 Wedgetail will provide the RAF with advanced Airborne Early Warning & Control capabilities

**BIRMINGHAM, United Kingdom, Sept. 20, 2024**  
Boeing has completed the first flight of the UK's E-7 Wedgetail for the Royal Air Force (RAF).

A Boeing flight-test crew conducted functional checks during the first flight from Birmingham Airport, marking a significant milestone in the programme's test and evaluation phase.

Currently unpainted, the aircraft is one of three 737 NG aircraft on British soil undergoing modification by a highly skilled team of over 100 people at STS Aviation Services in Birmingham.

"This safe and systematic Functional Check Flight is an important step for Boeing and the RAF as part of our rigorous and extensive testing and evaluation," said Stu Voboril, Boeing vice president and E-7 program manager. "Our team is committed



preparations for the aircraft to enter into service."

DE&S Director Air Support, Richard Murray, said, "This first flight marks a significant milestone for the programme and for our team who have worked tirelessly with our partners to progress what is a hugely complex endeavour. We are moving forward and will be delivering this critical capability to the RAF."

The combat-proven E-7 detects and identifies adversarial targets at long range and tracks multiple airborne

to ensuring the E-7 delivers the safety, quality, and capabilities we've promised to our customer as we prepare for delivery of the UK's first E-7 Wedgetail to the RAF."

Group Captain Richard Osselton, RAF Programme Director for Wedgetail said, "Achieving the first flight of Wedgetail is a significant milestone, representing an outstanding effort from the RAF programme team, DE&S, Boeing and STS Aviation. We will now build on this success and look forward to continuing the Test & Evaluation phase as part of our

and maritime threats simultaneously with 360-degree coverage via the Multi-role Electronically Scanned Array (MESA) sensor. It provides the warfighter with critical multi-domain awareness and command-and-control decision advantage.

"We're proud of the robust E-7 modification line we've stood up in the UK to deliver the RAF's future Airborne Early Warning & Control fleet," said Maria Laine, president of Boeing UK, Ireland and the Nordics. "We are committed to delivering this crucial capability to support the UK's national security and contribute toward regional stability."

The future UK E-7 fleet will operate from RAF Lossiemouth in Scotland, where Boeing's local suppliers and contractors are nearing completion of the infrastructure facilities to support its introduction into service.

The RAF participates in a tri-lateral agreement with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) and U.S. Air Force (USAF) toward cooperative Wedgetail interoperability, capability development, evaluation and testing, sustainment, operations, training, and safety.

Later this autumn, following a series of flight tests and further evaluation, the aircraft will depart to a paint facility to receive its RAF livery.

## Airbus delivers first A321XLR to Iberia

**Hamburg, Germany, 30 October 2024** – Spanish flag carrier Iberia has taken delivery of its first A321XLR, becoming the launch operator of the world's newest single-aisle aircraft.

The aircraft, powered by CFM LEAP-1A engines, will be operated by Iberia on a number of regional flights across the airline's European network before its first transatlantic mission from Madrid to Boston later in November.

Marco Sansavini, CEO & Chairman at Iberia, said: "We are very proud to be the launch airline for this new Airbus aircraft. The A321XLR will allow us to reach new destinations, operating transoceanic routes and doing so in a more efficient way."

Christian Scherer, CEO Commercial Aircraft at Airbus, said: "Five years in the making, the newest member of the Airbus family is all set to join its first operator, Iberia. The A321XLR will enable countless new non-stop destinations; it truly opens a new chapter in air connectivity. It is another proud "first" for all of us at Airbus in our constant quest to innovate and bring value to our customers. We are pleased to share this special moment with a special customer: gracias y felicidades Iberia."

The newly delivered A321XLR to Iberia seats 182 passengers in a two-class layout with lie-flat business class seats with direct aisle access. Boasting the new Airspace cabin, the aircraft will provide



passengers with long haul comfort in all classes. The XL bins provide 60% more luggage capacity for a more relaxed boarding experience for passengers and cabin crew. In addition, in-seat connectivity is available for passengers at every seat, and the latest lighting system enhances the overall passenger experience.

The A321XLR is the next evolutionary step from the A320neo which responds to market needs for even more range and payload, creating more value for the airlines. It will deliver an unprecedented Xtra Long Range of up to 4,700nm – 15% more range than the A321LR and with 30% lower fuel burn per seat compared with previous generation competitor aircraft, as well as reduced NOx emissions and noise. So far, Airbus has secured more than 500 orders for the aircraft.

The first A321XLR completed its maiden flight in June 2022. This was followed by an extensive test

programme involving three test aircraft. As with all Airbus aircraft, the A321XLR aircraft is already able to operate with up to 50% SAF. Airbus is targeting to have its aircraft up to 100% SAF capable by 2030.

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**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](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".



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Here's a look at the planes at Spruce Creek Fly-in on a Saturday in October 2024.

Photos by Gary Rosier . . .



NEWS FROM THE BARN

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

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NEWS FROM THE BARN

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



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## The new 2025 BMW 2 Series Gran Coupe

Woodcliff Lake, NJ – October 15, 2024... The BMW 2 Series Gran Coupe brings sportiness and elegance to the premium compact segment. And now, the second generation emphasizes these qualities even more intensely. The standard M Sport exterior design delivers a clear increase in presence and gives the new BMW 2 Series Gran Coupe a sportier and more dynamic appearance.

Revised powertrains, standard Adaptive M Suspension, and innovative systems for automated driving and parking ensure driving pleasure. The progressive character of the new BMW 2 Series Gran Coupe is evident in the area of digitalization, too. The user experience in the redesigned interior is defined by the new BMW iDrive with QuickSelect and a wide range of digital services based on BMW Operating System 9.

Production of the 2025 BMW 2 Series Gran Coupe will begin at BMW's plant in Leipzig in the fourth quarter of 2024. The market launch is set to start in March 2025.

At launch, two models will be available in the US. The 241-hp 228 xDrive Gran Coupe will start at \$41,600 plus \$1,175 destination and handling, and the high-performance, 312-hp M235 xDrive Gran Coupe will start at \$49,500 plus \$1,175 destination and handling.

Coming in mid-2025, the two-wheel drive, 241-hp 228 sDrive Gran Coupe will start at just \$39,600 plus \$1,175 destination and handling.

*Sporty elegance in the hallmark style of BMW.*

The exterior design of the new BMW 2 Series Gran Coupe is defined by an expressive front section, a dynamically elongated silhouette, and a powerfully designed rear. The proportions



clearly convey the sporty elegance characteristic of a BMW Gran Coupe.

The 2025 BMW 2 Series Gran Coupe has increased in length by 0.7 inches to 179.2, while the wheelbase remains unchanged at 105.1 inches. The width of the vehicle is constant at 70.9 inches, while the height has been increased by one inch to 56.9. These exterior dimensions ensure the BMW 2 Series Gran Coupe offers generous space for up to five occupants and their luggage.

The standard M Sport exterior design features a front apron with

large air intakes below the wide BMW kidney grille. The headlights are drawn far back into the front fenders. Two vertically and subtly arrow-shaped LED units function as the side marker lights, daytime running lights, and turn indicators. For a striking nighttime design, an illuminated kidney grille with contour lighting will be optionally available starting in March 2025.

The profile is defined by the long hood, short overhangs, long wheelbase, and a gently flowing roofline. A pronounced indentation in the transition to the rear emphasizes the athletically shaped shoulder section. At the rear of the elegantly elongated side window graphic, a discreetly embossed number 2 highlights the characteristic Hofmeister kink.

The rear derives its powerful, modern appearance from an ample surface structure broken up by just a few lines and flat taillights. Vertically aligned LED elements in the rear lights and the turn indicators echo the design of the light sources inside the headlights. The tailpipes of the 228 xDrive Gran Coupe are invisibly integrated in the rear apron, while the M235 xDrive Gran Coupe proudly displays traditional M quad tailpipes.

## Ford Performance Motorsports and HRT Partner for Mustang GT3 DTM Debut

\* Ford Performance Motorsports and Haupt Racing Team join forces to bring Mustang GT3 to top European race series including DTM and Nürburgring Nordschleife

### DEARBORN, Mich., Oct 25, 2024

– The Ford Mustang GT3 has already been tearing up the race circuits of Europe, North America and beyond but some of the most iconic series and racetracks have missed out on the roar of the legendary Coyote 5.0 V8 – until now. Ford Performance

Motorsports is taking the Mustang GT3 to some of the most exciting race circuits of Europe in collaboration with Haupt Racing Team (HRT), a multi-championship-winning privateer team, for the 2025 racing season. As part of the collaboration, the Mustang GT3 will now compete in several new top-tier European series, including the Deutsche Tourenwagen Masters (DTM) and ADAC Nürburgring Langstrecken Serie (NLS) including the ADAC RAVENOL 24H Nürburgring races under the "HRT Ford Performance" banner.

The Ford Mustang GT3 program has made a good start in 2024 with podiums at the 24 Hours of Le Mans as well as in the IMSA series in the USA. However, the time is right for the Mustang GT3 to expand further on the global stage and this new partnership with HRT continues to deliver on Ford's expansion in customer racing to include DTM,

Nürburgring Nordschleife and ADAC GT Masters, as well as the SRO-sanctioned Fanatec GT World Challenge Europe and other race events.

A key highlight of this collaboration will be Mustang GT3's participation in the ADAC RAVENOL 24 hours Nürburgring in June, completing a series of endurance races, including the 24 Hours of Le Mans, Crowdstrike 24 Hours of Spa, and Rolex 24 At DAYTONA. These legendary endurance races push man and machine to the very limit as the ultimate test and bring the Mustang name to more potential customers around the world.

HRT, whose resume includes titles such as the 2021 DTM Drivers' Championship and a 2023 GT World Challenge Europe title, brings a proven track record to Ford's Mustang GT3 program. Ford's own racing history in DTM dates back to the 1980's with legendary cars such as the Ford Sierra RS500 Cosworth, along with five victories at the Nürburgring 24 Hours in cars such as the Escort, Capri and Sierra RS500.

Mark Rushbrook, global director, Ford Performance Motorsports:

"Having a team like HRT join the

Ford Performance

global family is a

significant

moment for us.

Haupt Racing

Team's proven

success in DTM

and other race

series is a strong

endorsement of

the Mustang GT3,

and we're thrilled to see them take on the legendary ADAC RAVENOL Nürburgring 24 Hours as well as many of the other iconic circuits of Europe. This also means that along with our partners at Multimatic and Proton Competition, the Ford Mustang GT3 will now be competing at most of the iconic, 24-hour races at circuits such as Le Mans, Daytona and Spa. This collaboration strengthens our global position in GT3 racing and opens up new series and audiences for us around the world as we continue to grow the Mustang racing program in 2025."

Ulrich Fritz, managing director, Haupt Racing Team GmbH: "HRT has continuously developed and improved over the past few years. We have built up a high level of expertise in the use and development of race cars. We are therefore very excited about this new project. The fact that Ford has chosen HRT as its spearhead in Europe is a great honor. Ford is a real power brand with a great motorsport tradition and high motivation. The Ford Mustang GT3 is a latest-generation race car that we will certainly be able to take to the next level together. We will be well prepared for the upcoming season and are very much looking forward to working with Ford."



FORD DESIGN

# 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.



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All photos for this feature: Gary Rosier

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