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December 2023 / January 2024

Issue No: 71

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**NEW FORMAT
VIDEO LINKS**

THIS MONTH:

SEMA 2023

Spruce Creek Toy Parade 2023

Turkey Run 2023

and Much More

SPEEDI'S BLOG

WELCOME TO SPEEDI'S Blog.

Apologies again for the late publication of the December 2023 / January 2024 issue of Speedi Wings & Wheels magazine.

Computer problems with Windows software has been to blame. At first I thought it was my hardware playing up but even after I loaded a brand new Windows 10 installation the problem persisted.

Research online pointed to an issue with the latest update to Windows 10. This seemed to be confirmed by a friend who had similar problems to me with his Windows 10 system. So much so that he was so frustrated that he bought a new PC complete with Windows 11 installed.

I too bought a new Windows 11 system, but it's a mini-PC version and it seems to be

working fine. The only problem is reinstalling my software on the new system.

Talking of window problems. I have just heard about a window (and part of the fuselage) blowing out of the side of an Alaskan Airways B737 Max 9 shortly after take-off from Portland, OR.



Fortunately the plane was at a relatively low altitude of 16000 ft when this major incident took place. As a result it quickly descended to below 10000 ft which is the height below which hypoxia is not a major issue. However, the oxygen masks appear to have deployed correctly.

It appears that this particular 737 is a recent airframe receiving its Certificate of Airworthiness on October 25, 2023.

Clearly this is going to be a major issue for all the airlines who have flocked back to the 737 Max range after the model had been cleared to return to service by aviation authorities worldwide after the 2 fatal crashes in 2018 & 2019.

It clearly shows the importance of keeping your seatbelts fastened whilst in flight as a sudden decompression can cause loose items, including passengers to be sucked out of the aircraft, in an instant.

Southwest Airlines operates the largest fleet of 737 aircraft in the world with over 200 aircraft in service. Back in 2009 and 2011 Southwest B737 aircraft suffered 2 in-flight structural failures which caused rapid >>

>> decompression, but which were not as visually significant as the latest incident as only small portions of the fuselage were damaged.

In 2018 a woman died when she was partially sucked out of a Southwest B737 after a window failed.

The most visually impressive structural failure of a B737 was back in 1988 when an Aloha Airlines aircraft had a massive explosive decompression when a fuselage seam failed and a large portion of the upper skin was ripped off the aircraft when it was flying at 24000 ft.



Of course, perhaps the most famous aircraft window incident took place way back in 1954.

It was then that a number of de-Havilland Comets broke up in flight after suffering explosive decompressions.

In these cases it was the window design and manufacture which was to blame. The windows were a more square design than modern aircraft windows, and were designed to be bonded as well as riveted into place. The bonding was apparently not applied, but the major cause of the structural failure was the not the shape of the windows themselves but insufficient reinforcement around the edges.

One of the most beautiful aircraft designs of all time - the Lockheed Super



Constellation - had square windows. But with piston engines it cruised at much lower altitudes than jet aircraft. However, they did not try to reduce weight as much so the window openings were more heavily reinforced.

Back to the Microsoft Windows issue. For some time now Microsoft has been heavily promoting Windows 11. For many people this would have meant buying a new PC as for some reason even powerful older computers were not compatible with Windows 11. Now how does Microsoft get Windows 10 users to upgrade. What about putting a bug in Windows 10 updates which makes it look like it's the PC's fault when programs freeze, when using the mouse turns off the PC and more?

It has certainly caused me to change my system, perhaps for no reason . . .

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Ringed in the Holidays

Seen here by Webb, ice giant Uranus is a dynamic world with rings, moons, storms, extreme seasons, and more. Webb's sensitivity has even captured the close-in Zeta ring, faint, diffuse, and elusive. These new images reveal detailed features of Uranus's seasonal north polar cap, as well as bright storms near and below the southern border of the cap. If humans want to send a spacecraft to visit Uranus up close, it's necessary to understand how to navigate debris from its rings.

Image Credit: NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI

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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 2023 / January 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.

In this issue we are featuring a look the Spruce Creek Toy Parade - 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
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7 Spruce Creek Toy Parade 2023

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CONTENTS

7 Spruce Creek Toy Parade 2023: A look at the annual Spruce Creek Toy Parade with a photo montage of all the fun and action by our Florida correspondent, Gary Rosier . . .

24 Spruce Creek Aircraft Pics: A look at the aircraft flying at Spr. Photos from Gary Rosier . . .

31 SEMA Event, Las Vegas: A look at the annual SEMA show 2023, from Las Vegas, NV. Gary Rosier was there to snap the action . . .

Regular Features:

2 Speedi's Blog: Steve Wood looks at 'what's hot and what's not' in the world of aviation

6 AvNews: Snippets of aviation related news

15 News from the Barn: News of the events & 'happenings' at Spruce Creek Fly-in.

27 AutoNews: Top titbits of Auto News

28 Gone Cruisin': Hot Rods & Cruisers and more . . .

34 SpeediCity: Fun and action from Daytona Beach



The EFA: 20 years of Tiger school

The Franco-German School (L'École Franco-Allemande, EFA) in Cattet des Maures, which trains Tiger crews from both nations, was created as part of an ambitious joint project backed by a strong commitment from Airbus Helicopters (Eurocopter at the time). And now, 20 years after it was founded, there is no doubt about its success in both human and operational terms.

"It was an honour for me to be the first Head of the EFA," recalls Alain Salendre, who joined Airbus Helicopters after leaving the military in 2006. "Everything had to be built from scratch and our management put all their trust in us. We were able to do what we thought was best for both countries, and it was an intense experience for everyone involved." Aside from the arrival of the first aircraft and simulators, which were highly advanced for their time, Alain Salendre insists: "The EFA is above

all a human success story. It's a project that has brought two cultures and two populations closer together. The school has been very well received by the local community and authorities, and our German partners have had no trouble integrating." Driven by this Franco-German determination, military cooperation has also been a complete success. Discussions have been, and still are, ongoing and sincere, with a view to furthering integration.

Training excellence proven time and again

Twenty years on, the EFA has matured. The excellence of its training has been proven time and again on battlefields from Afghanistan to Africa, where the Tigers have consistently shown their technological superiority, firepower and tactical impact. So much so, that no operation conducted jointly with ground troops is conceivable today without a detachment of combat helicopters. The EFA currently has seven French HAD Tigers and as many German KHT Tigers. Its cruising

speed enables it to train around 80 people each year: pilots, captains and patrol leaders, as well as Flight Crew Simulator Instructors (FSIs). For maintenance personnel, type training takes place at the Franco-German Centre for Technical Logistics Personnel in Fassberg (Germany). So, "in this unique place and environment, French instructors train French crews while their German counterparts do the same for their crews," explains the school's current Chef de Corps, Lieutenant Colonel Olivier Mallet. This makes a lot of sense, given that "the HAD and KHT mission equipment differs.

That said, the areas where pooling is applied on a day-to-day basis are extremely vast." For example, since 2021, all 'pilot' synthetic flights have been taken in Franco-German patrols. The same applies to patrol leaders, for whom diversity and cooperation are demonstrated in the simulator, by bringing complementary HAD and KHT patrols together in the same tactical scenario. "For the past two years, we have been qualifying all our trainees to shoot at the Canjuers camp during bi-national shooting campaigns," adds Lieutenant Colonel Mallet. To complete this picture of cooperation, witness the latest example of synergies put in place, namely the activation of computer-assisted courses given in English for trainees from both nations. If figures are anything to go by, the EFA Tiger has passed the symbolic milestone of one thousand people trained, and "day-to-day life is undeniably 100% Franco-German synergy," concludes Lieutenant Colonel Mallet.

Boeing-built X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle Embarks on Seventh Mission

Mission will expand the United States Space Force's knowledge of the space environment by experimenting with future space domain awareness technologies

- Seventh flight follows record-breaking 908-day sixth mission

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, Fla., Dec. 29, 2023

The Boeing built X-37B autonomous spaceplane launched yesterday aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket, marking the beginning of its seventh mission.

"The X-37B government and Boeing teams have worked together to produce a more responsive, flexible, and adaptive experimentation platform," said William D. Bailey, Director, Department of the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office. "The work they've done to streamline processes and adapt evolving technologies will help our nation learn a tremendous amount about operating in and returning from a space environment."

As it has with every mission, the Orbital Test Vehicle will validate

new technologies, fostering innovation and pushing the boundaries of space exploration and utility. On this seventh flight, the X-37B will test future space domain awareness technology experiments that are integral in ensuring safe,

interest in space sustainability," said Michelle Parker, Space Mission Systems vice president at Boeing Defense, Space & Security. "We are pushing innovation and capability that will influence the next generation of spacecraft."



Since its inaugural launch in April 2010, the X-37B has consistently set new endurance records, surpassing the initial design mission duration of 270 days. Its sixth mission set a new record with an impressive 908-day journey before returning to Earth in November 2022.

The X-37B, which will now build on its more than 1.3 billion miles traveled during its 3,774 days in space, exemplifies the successful partnership between the Department of the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office and the United States Space Force. Boeing teams deliver program management, engineering, production, test and mission support.

stable and secure operations in space for all users of the domain.

"The technological advancements we're driving on X-37B will benefit the broader space community, especially as we see increased

In 2019, the X-37B was awarded the Robert J. Collier Trophy for advancing the performance, efficiency and safety of air and space vehicles.

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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, Residence 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



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".



Toy Parade Aircraft 2023

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Photos by Gary Rosier . . .



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Pics from a Saturday at Spruce Creek in November '23





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Mercedes-Benz receives approvals for turquoise-coloured automated driving marker lights in California and Nevada

Stuttgart/Sacramento/Carson City, December 19, 2023

* Mercedes-Benz receives world's first approval for use of special exterior lighting for automated driving in California and Nevada

* In California, the permit is valid to test turquoise-coloured marker lights for automated driving on freeways

* In Nevada, the permit allows production vehicles to be equipped with special marker lights beginning with Model Year 2026 EQS and S-Class DRIVE PILOT vehicles and continues until legislative changes

* First application in further development of DRIVE PILOT - the first and only certified system for conditionally automated driving (SAE-Level 3) in the United States (CA, NV)

* The production-ready version of DRIVE PILOT has already made its on-road debut in California and Nevada with a limited fleet of Level 3 equipped EQS Sedans

* Customer deliveries of DRIVE PILOT equipped Model Year 2024 EQS Sedan and S-Class models will be available in early 2024 through participating authorized Mercedes-Benz dealers in California and Nevada

Mercedes-Benz has become the world's first automobile manufacturer to receive permits for special exterior marker lights for automated driving in the states of California and Nevada. The California exemption permit for testing vehicles in California is initially limited to two years. The Nevada permit applies to Mercedes-Benz Model Year 2026 production vehicles and will remain valid until a statutory modification is achieved with the state legislature.

Both permits allow Mercedes-Benz to gain important insights into the interaction of automated vehicles and other road users. The inclusion of marker lights is poised to

substantially enhance public acceptance of automated driving and contribute to road safety, as the lights make the automated driving system's status clearly visible from the exterior. This also allows traffic law enforcement and police officers to identify the system's status and determine whether drivers are permitted to engage in secondary activities during the conditionally automated journey. Designed in accordance with SAE J3134 Recommended Practice, the turquoise-coloured marker lights for automated driving in California are integrated into the front and rear lights as well as the two outside mirrors in Mercedes-Benz testing vehicles.

“With the development of automated driving marker lights, Mercedes-Benz is once again setting new industry standards. We are the first automaker in the world to receive such approvals in the U.S., specifically in California and Nevada. The more automated driving vehicles populate the road, the more important communication and interaction between the vehicle and the environment become.”



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 - 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 Germany and numerous other markets. The new BMW 5 Series Touring will be available with the same range of drives from spring 2024.

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. The market launch also begins in the 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.

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 combined: 20.6 - 18.2 kWh/100 km 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

The 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 hands off the steering wheel for a longer period of time at speeds of up to 130 km/h and place them in a comfortable position, provided they continue to keep a close eye on the traffic situation and are able to take over from the system again at any time if necessary.

The intensive experience of semi-automated 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 48-volt 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.

GONE CRUISIN'

Gary's Hot Rods & Cruisers



Turkey Run 2023

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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.

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FACTORY FIVE RACING
'33 Hot Rod

- Built by Chris Hines
- 8.47 secs 1/4 mile @ 168 MPH
- Powered by 1,024 HP 6.2L LSX Engine with T56 Magnum
- Build-yourself kit comes with everything except for engine/transmission, wheels/tires, & paint
- Complete kit - \$20,990

Blower Cars at the Turkey Run



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THE NEXT ISSUE OF SPEEDI WINGS & WHEELS FEATURES THE ROLEX 24 RACE AS WELL AS MUCH MORE AVIATION AND MOTORSPORT ACTION

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