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February / March 2024

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THIS MONTH: Legends on the Beach Rolex 24 in 2024 The ROAR before the Rolex 24 and Much More

SPEEDI'S BLOG

WELCOME TO SPEEDI'S Blog.

Due to a variety of reasons this issue of Speed Wings & Wheels has been delayed. It seems that with each issue now there is a delay, but hopefully my life will settle down more in the future - but who knows . . .

We have some interesting content in this issue with three sections featuring sports car racing at the Daytona International Speedway.

The ROAR before the Rolex 24 kicks off the racing season at the Daytona International Speedway and starts the weekend before the famous Rolex 24. It's a 3 day test session featuring sports cars and their drivers from around the world.

Then there's the Legends on the Beach which is now an annual event and features

racing history from Daytona Beach. NASCAR started racing on the internationally famous beach at Daytona Beach, where even to this day you are allowed to take your car onto the beach, albeit with a slow 10 mph speed limit. Don't ever think about going above this limit as it is strictly enforced. That is, unless you are taking part, with a historic race car, in the Legends on the Beach parade.

The interesting thing of late relates to Space exploration. There is certainly a significantly greater number of launches taking place from Cape Canaveral.

There are 10 international moon landing missions slated for 2024, five of which are US based and will be carrying NASA payloads.

The first was the touch down of the JAXA SLIM (Smart Lander for Investigating Moon)

mission soft-landed on the Moon on the night of Friday 18 to Saturday 19 January 2024 Japan Standard Time. Of course the reason for the Japanese time reference was this it was a spacecraft from Japan.

Next came the USA with its first private spacecraft to land on the Moon - which successfully touched down on 22 February. The spacecraft, named Odysseus and built by Intuitive Machines in Houston, Texas, also became the first US lunar lander since 1972, when the last crew of Apollo astronauts visited the Moon.



Of course the big event this year will be NASA sending a manned spacecraft to the Moon.>

> But this time it will only orbit the Moon. Of course, the biggest mission to watch for in 2024 is the second launch of NASA's Artemis program. Artemis 2 will put nearly all of the elements together, including the Space Launch System rocket, the Orion capsule, and four crew.

The mission will perform a lunar flyby, making the crew the first humans to leave low-Earth orbit since Apollo 17 in 1972. Right now, the launch is set for not earlier than November 2024.



The photo above, from NASA, shows the Artemis 2 crew (from left) Jeremy Hansen, Victor Glover, Reid Wiseman, and Christina Hammock Koch.

What I find interesting in terms of Astronauts is their pay, or relative lack of it, certainly compared to airline pilots who routinely earn more than twice what an astronaut is paid.

Then there are some other interesting 'facts'. Astronauts have to meet a challenging set of basic requirements. A bachelor's degree in engineering, biological science, physical science or mathematics is a must, and those that actually want to command a spacecraft need at least 1,000 hours of "pilot-in-command time" in a jet plane.

In addition, astronaut candidates must meet specific physical standards: good eyesight 20/20 in both eyes (glasses are OK) and 140/90 blood pressure. Oh, and you have to be tall enough, but not too tall. Astronauts who pilot vessels have to be between 5 feet 2 inches

and 6 foot 3 inches tall, whereas astronauts who work on the spacecraft but don't pilot it can be as short as 4 feet 11 inches and as tall as 6 feet 4 inches.

Interestingly, at the time of the Apollo 11 flight in 1969, Neil Armstrong was paid a salary of \$27,401 and was the highest paid of the flying astronauts, according to the Boston Herald. That translates to just over \$234,000 in 2024 dollars.

But this is dwarfed by the pay for senior Captains at major US airlines where annual pay can now exceed \$400,000.

The other interesting fact is that astronauts, unlike airline pilots, do not get overtime pay and are certainly not paid 'by the flying mile'.

But I guess you have to be a very special person to want to become an astronaut - and you can always become an airline pilot afterwards!

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Wings & Wheels



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Wings & Wheels

INTUITIVE MOON LANDING

Welcome to the February / March 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.

*Speedi Wings & Wheels is a wide screen format magazine
Best viewed in full screen single page HD mode*



7 *The ROAR before the Rolex 24*

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NASA to Send Research to Station Aboard 30th SpaceX Resupply Mission

Photo above - A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket carrying the Dragon spacecraft lifts off from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023, on the company's 29th commercial resupply services mission for the agency to the International Space Station.

Credits: SpaceX

New research and technology demonstrations for NASA are set to launch aboard the agency's SpaceX 30th commercial resupply services mission to the International Space Station. Launch is targeted for 4:55 p.m. EDT Thursday, March 21,

lifting off from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.

Live launch coverage will air on NASA+, NASA Television, the NASA app, and the agency's website, with prelaunch events starting Tuesday, March 19. Learn how to stream NASA TV through a variety of platforms.

SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft will deliver new scientific investigations, food, supplies, and equipment to the international crew. NASA and its partners will send studies aboard the mission on plant metabolism in space and a set of new sensors for free-flying Astrobee robots to provide 3D mapping capabilities. Other research includes a fluid physics

study that could benefit solar cell technology and a university project from CSA (Canadian Space Agency) that will monitor sea ice and ocean conditions.

Arrival at the station is scheduled for approximately 7:30 a.m. Saturday, March 23. The SpaceX Dragon spacecraft will dock autonomously to the zenith port of the station's Harmony module.

The spacecraft is expected to spend about a month attached to the orbiting outpost before it returns to Earth with research and cargo, splashing down off the coast of Florida.

Intuitive Machines Historic IM-1 Mission Success: American Ingenuity Never Gives Up



HOUSTON, Feb. 29, 2024, a leading space exploration, infrastructure, and services company, today announced the completion of science and data transmission for all NASA and commercial payloads onboard Odysseus, the Nova-C class lunar lander, after the successful February 22 soft landing on the south pole region of the Moon.

Intuitive Machines CEO Steve Altemus said, "Spaceflight's unique challenges are conquered on Earth but mastered in space. Our now proven robust lunar program, a national asset, feeds directly into our second and third missions. This success drives our relentless pursuit of performance excellence to benefit the entire industry."

Intuitive Machines achieved these marquee accomplishments in the Company's first attempt to land on the Moon:

- * Successfully soft-landed the Company's Nova-C class lunar lander, Odysseus, on the Moon,

marking the United States' first lunar landing in over 50 years since Apollo 17

- * Validated the performance of the Company's proprietary liquid methane and liquid oxygen propulsion system through the first-ever deep space ignition, followed by multiple restarts, repeatedly providing successful spacecraft maneuvers

- * Became the first commercial-sector company and NASA CLPS (Commercial Lunar Payload Services) provider to successfully land and transmit scientific data to and from the Moon

- * Landed Odysseus, farther south than any vehicle in the world has ever soft-landed on the Moon, which we believe is significant given NASA's \$93B Artemis Campaign is targeting the region for human missions

- * Traveled over 600,000 miles and softly landed less than one mile from its intended Malapert A landing region

- * Transmitted over 350 megabytes of science and engineering data, which was collected across all payloads; NASA confirms mission success

- * Exceeded one of the mission objectives to operate 144 hours on the lunar surface and entered standby mode on February 29, 2024, as we await two to three weeks for the next lunar day and a potential for Odysseus' revival

- * Fundamentally disrupted the economics of landing on the Moon through a fixed-price performance

contract, demonstrating unprecedented economics and efficiency to commercial customers and NASA

Accomplishing the IM-1 mission required Intuitive Machines to integrate on a global scale. Radio astronomy dishes spread across a dozen countries, international hardware providers, and the strength of the United States domestic supply chain across more than 50 congressional districts were paramount in the IM-1 mission success.

Mr. Altemus continued, "Before this mission, we had an absolute sense of humility and relied on our technical excellence and years of experience to triumph and persevere throughout all the challenges we faced during the mission. Following our unequivocal success, I am emboldened for the future of the U.S. and international lunar economy and Intuitive Machines' future as we believe we can win, execute, and pioneer the future of the cislunar market."

About Intuitive Machines

Intuitive Machines is a diversified space company focused on space exploration. Intuitive Machines supplies space products and services to support sustained robotic and human exploration to the Moon, Mars, and beyond. Intuitive Machines' products and services are offered through its four business units: Lunar Access Services, Orbital Services, Lunar Data Services, and Space Products and Infrastructure.

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THE ROAR



Photos by Gary Rosier

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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



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 on a Friday evening in February 2024

Photos by Gary Rosier . . .

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Planes at Spruce Creek Fly-in on a Saturday morning in February 2024

Photos by Gary Rosier

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DEFENDER RALLY SERIES LAUNCHES BIGGEST AND MOST COMPETITIVE SEASON YET

28 FEBRUARY 2024

Defender has revealed the 2024 Defender Rally Series vehicle and driver line-up ahead of the opening round of this year's UK championship on Saturday 2 March.

This year's Defender Rally Series UK will have the largest competitive field in the championship's history, with up to 16 driver and co-driver pairings contesting each event. It brings novice and experienced drivers together to compete in the UK's premier one-make off-road motorsport championship. Applications are already open – and in demand – for 2025.

This season's drivers have diverse motorsport backgrounds, from novices and track-day enthusiasts to experienced circuit and off-road racers. All of them will benefit from

expert driver coaching and works support across the season.

Each of the specially prepared Defender 90s will feature a unique take on the new 2024 championship livery, customised to suit each competitor with a statement colour behind a signature black pattern.

"The 2024 Defender Rally Series is our biggest yet, and will give every participant the opportunity to experience Defender at its very best, taking on some of the UK's toughest, high-speed rally terrain. Combining the engineering integrity of showroom models with Bowler expertise and support provides the ultimate off-road racing package, allowing the drivers to simply arrive and drive. Every Defender 90 is prepared to the very highest standard, and we are thrilled to start a new UK season, as well as a growing number of international events"

CALUM MCKECHNIE

GENERAL MANAGER, BOWLER MOTORS

Competitors who will be living Defender's 'embrace the impossible' ethos in the 2024 Defender Rally Series include former Boyzone member Shane Lynch, and Vanessa Ruck, an adventure motorcycle racer and online content creator. She finished fourth in the 2023 UK Championship with multiple podiums to her name, and will also contest the European Baja Championship this year.

As well as the Defender Rally Series UK, participants have the option to embark on specially curated international events throughout 2024. The Defender Rally Series European Baja Championship comprises four events, the first in Wales followed by France, Spain and Iceland, with some intended for those in their second year of the Series with the required rally licence. The one-off Balkan Rally-Raid Experience individual race event takes place in September, with more than 500km of competitive driving.

NEW FORD MUSTANG IS AN ICON REBORN

COLOGNE, Germany, Feb. 1, 2024 – Ford today announced that the new Mustang 5.0l V8 GT 1 is now available to order in Europe.

The newest chapter in the story of a true performance icon and the world's best-selling sports car 2 introduces a cutting-edge digital cockpit, an advanced new V8 engine and fresh, edgier styling to captivate a new generation of Mustang fans.

The Ford Mustang celebrates 60 years of continuous production in 2024. During that time more than 10 million Mustangs have been sold, it has made thousands of appearances in film, television, music and video games, and has become the world's most-liked vehicle on Facebook.

"New Mustang is everything that our customers expect from an undisputed automotive icon – and then some. Surprising, connected technology really complements and elevates performance enhancements that will win the hearts of a whole new generation of drivers," said Jon Williams, general manager, Ford Blue, Europe.

Spectacular and athletic performance

The new Ford Mustang takes legendary performance to even greater heights with upgraded hardware, software and tuning – plus a new Gen IV 5.0-litre V8 engine that offers 446 PS and 540 Nm of torque. 3

The new Mustang GT features a new air induction system with a dual air intake and dual throttle body design, minimising induction losses and enabling a higher rate of air flow for increased engine output. At low engine speeds a single throttle body opens for efficiency, with the second throttle body opening in synch at higher engine speeds to maximise power. High pressure direct injection and low pressure port injection work in tandem to deliver low-rpm torque and high-rpm power.

The Gen IV 5.0-litre V8 also features a polymer-coated, forged-steel crankshaft for reduced friction and durability, with sinter-forged connecting rods for reliable high-rpm capability. New intake and exhaust camshafts operate the large diameter valves, with the Ti-VCT variable camshaft timing ensuring a broad spread of power across all engine speeds.

Up to six interactive Drive Modes optimise performance capabilities across a variety of driving scenarios: Normal, Sport, Slippery, Drag, Track 4 and a customisable setting allowing the driver to tune Mustang to their preferences. As each mode is selected, high-fidelity graphics in the digital instrument panel bring the individual functions to life.

Driving responsiveness has been enhanced by optimising suspension geometry to reduce the compliance steer effect that can contribute to understeer, while a quicker steering ratio also enhances cornering dynamics.



Rev-matching holds engine revs during manual downshifts to ensure smooth engagement of the next gear. Standard on Mustang GT, it delivers even more precision and refinement for the driver.

Mustang GT comes with a choice of Ford's 10-speed automatic transmission or a six-speed manual transmission. A standard Performance Pack includes 19-inch alloy wheels, a limited-slip differential for increased traction, Brembo brakes with 19-inch callipers and an Active Valve Exhaust that delivers adjustable engine sounds to suit the driving scenario. Optional MagneRide® active suspension monitors road conditions one thousand times per second and uses an electronically-controlled fluid to adjust damping resistance to suit.

An electronic drift brake 5 brings new technology to the race track, unlocking the rear-wheel drive drifting capability of Mustang with the visual appeal and functionality of a traditional, mechanical handbrake. The Performance Electronic Parking Brake is engineered for both novice drivers to learn and improve their drift skills and providing expert drivers with a competition-ready system.

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.



Eastbound *Get Down* Truck Show

Photos by Gary Rosier



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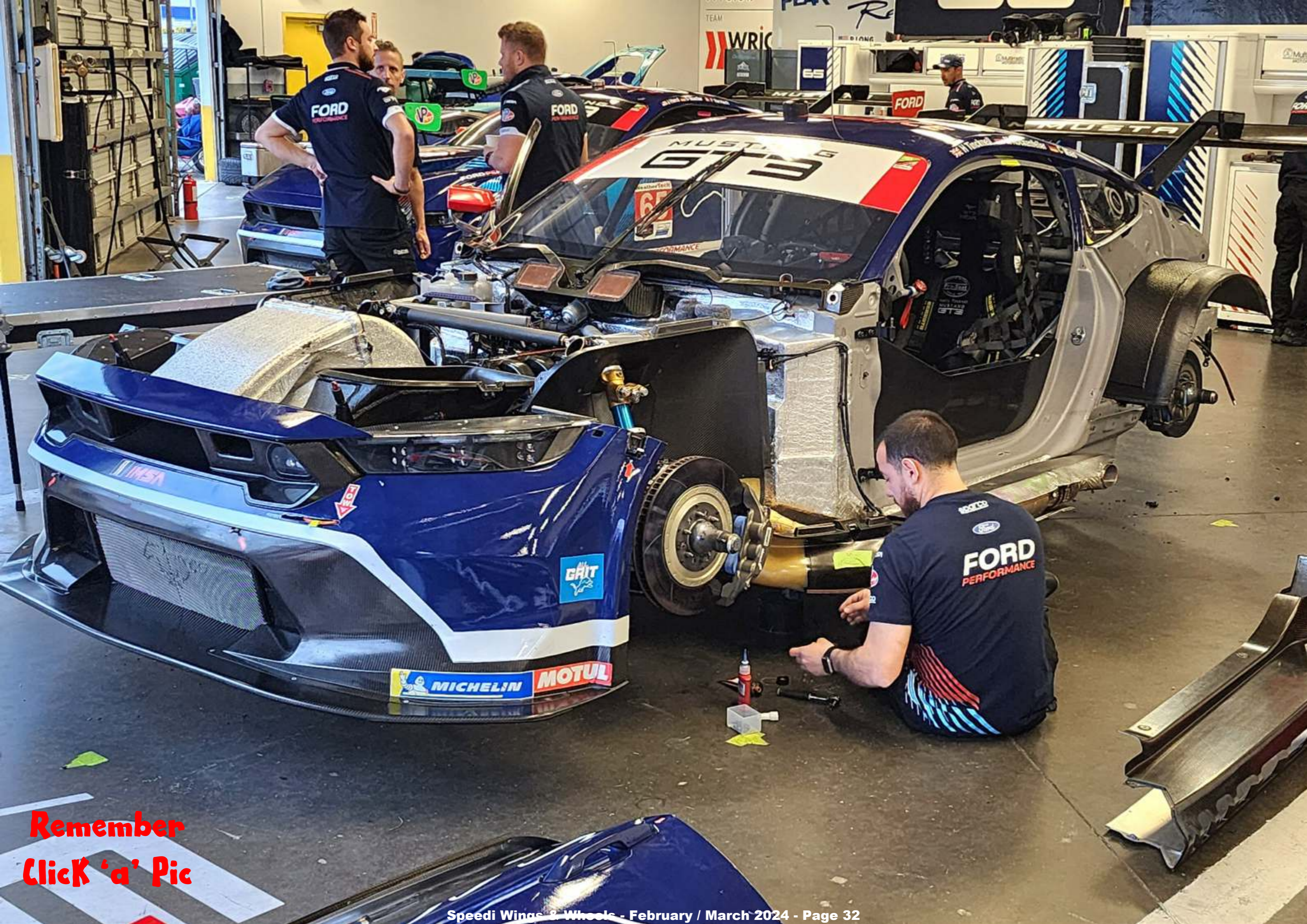


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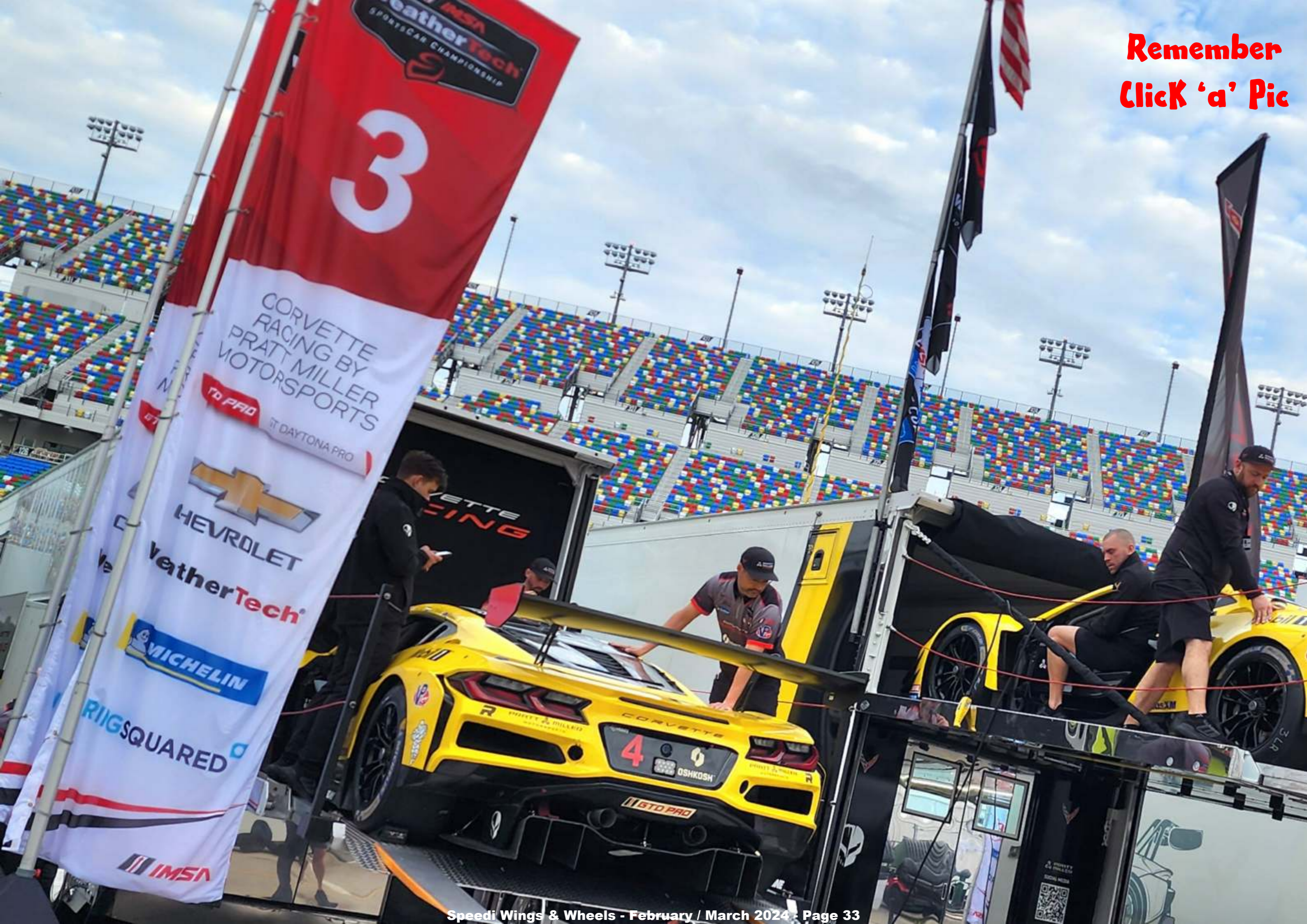
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Rolex 24 - Part 1



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Rolex 24 - Part 2

Photos by Gary Rosier





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Legends on the Beach

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THE NEXT ISSUE OF SPEEDI WINGS & WHEELS FEATURES THE 2024 GATORNATIONALS AS WELL AS MUCH MORE AVIATION AND MOTORSPORT ACTION

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