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April / May 2025 Issue No: 79

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**NEW FORMAT  
VIDEO LINKS**

THIS ISSUE: Bike Week 2025

Spring Turkey Run and Much More

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# SPEEDI'S BLOG

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

Had it not been for my passport and US visa 'vanishing' when I was airside on April 1 on my way over to the USA this issue of Speedi Wings & Wheels might have been published on time.

Yes, it was April Fool's Day but if someone decided to play a prank on me by hiding my passport I was certainly not amused.

To this day the passport has not turned up. As I could not produce my passport at the departures gate for a flight to LAX, I was understandably denied boarding.

Despite retracing my steps to the security area in terminal 3, where I knew I had the passport, it was nowhere to be found. The security staff helped me search - to no avail.

Being airside in an international terminal

meant that I needed a passport to get back 'into' the UK, Fortunately I always have a copy on my phone, plus my driving licence. It took a while, but finally I was let back into my home country.

I had no choice but to return home and notify the authorities and take steps to get these vital documents replaced.

However getting the 200+ miles north of London to my home was challenging in itself. First the last train to Leeds was packed, but eventually I found a seat. Perhaps because I looked so exhausted? The disastrous day still had a bizarre twist left. The last train to my home town had just been canceled due to vandalism on the train. But a rail replacement bus had been provided. Great, I thought but I did not expect an hour's delay in setting off and then a 2 hour bus ride for a journey which by train takes 32 minutes.

But I got to see parts of my County which I would normally have never seen.

So I was standing at the bus stop along with people traveling to other destinations where their train had been canceled due to engineering work. Some luxury coaches came and went and still no bus for me. Eventually, at nearly midnight, a decrepit old bus struggled up. Certainly not a luxury coach, but perhaps it was the only one available when a train suddenly gets canceled due to vandalism.

But it became evident why this was a very small bus. It had to pass down tiny country lanes as these were the only road links between the tiny country stations of my route home on each side of the infamous Bramhope tunnel.

It was a major engineering feat back in 1845 when work started on the 2.138 mile tunnel.

Constructed during 1845-1849 by the Leeds and Thirsk Railway. It is notable for its 2.138-mile



(3.441 km) length and it has a Grade II listed, crenellated north portal -see photo above. The deaths of 24 men who were killed during its construction are commemorated in Otley churchyard by a monument that is a replica of the tunnel's north portal.

Thomas Grainger was the engineer for the line and James Bray the contractor. Two sighting towers were erected and 20 shafts sunk along the tunnel's line. Men excavated rock from the shaft faces until the shafts were connected and the tunnel was

completed in 1848. Thousands of navvies lived locally in temporary bothies with their families, and worked in dangerous and wet conditions to facilitate the grand opening in 1849.

Work was carried out by up to 2,300 navvies and 400 horses were brought in for the work. The workforce included 188 quarrymen, 102 stonemasons, 732 tunnel men, 738 laborers and 18 carpenters. Each day around 2150 wagon loads of rock and earth was removed from the workings to be tipped on the Wharfe embankment leading to the Arthington Viaduct.

The tunnel was planned to be 3,344 yards in length but during construction it was extended to 3,743 yards. The cost of building the whole line was estimated to be

£800,000 but the final total rose to £2,150,313 (equivalent to £281,750,000 in 2023) by 1849 because of costs incurred for labor, unforeseen extra costs for tunneling at Bramhope and work in Leeds and on the Arthington Viaduct.

When built it was the third-longest rail tunnel in the Country.

Now without my lost passport and the rail replacement bus I would never have found out so much about Bramhope tunnel, which saves a huge amount of time getting between Harrogate, my home town, and Leeds - the mainline connecting station for London.

As a footnote obtaining a replacement British passport was easy. But I could not apply for a replacement US visa until I had the new passport number. Then, unlike when I renewed the visa in 2024, I had to physically visit the US Embassy in London.



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## Wings & Wheels

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NASA/JPL-Caltech/ESA/Harvard-Smithsonian CfA

The spiral galaxy known as Messier 81 (M81) has a rosy tint in this June 1, 2007, composite image that incorporates data from NASA's Spitzer and Hubble Space Telescopes, and NASA's Galaxy Evolution Explorer. Discovered by the German astronomer Johann Elert Bode in 1774, M81 is one of the brightest galaxies in the night sky. It is located 11.6 million light-years from Earth in the constellation Ursa Major.

The galaxy's spiral arms, which wind all the way down into its nucleus, are made up of young, bluish, hot stars formed in the past few million years. They also host a population of stars formed in an episode of star formation that started about 600 million years ago.

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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 April / May 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 Reno Air Races from 2013 - 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 *Bike Week 2025*

# Speedi

## Wings & Wheels

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DOHA, Qatar, May 14, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- Qatar Airways and Boeing [NYSE: BA] today announced the carrier will purchase up to 210 widebody jets, which sets new records as the largest widebody order for Boeing, including the largest order for 787 Dreamliners and Qatar Airways largest-ever order. This purchase, which also includes additional orders for Boeing's new 777-9, will support approximately 400,000 jobs in the U.S. and position the award-winning Middle Eastern airline for further international expansion.

The order includes:

Boeing-QTR-widebodies-in-flight  
View File Download File  
Boeing-QTR-widebodies-in-flight  
Boeing-Official-Signing-Photo  
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Boeing-Official-Signing-Photo  
130 787 Dreamliners, the long-range, ultra-efficient widebody airplane family that has delivered a 25% fuel-use improvement compared to airplanes it replaces and superior comfort for passengers. Ten orders were previously booked as unidentified. 30 777-9s, the world's largest twin-engine airplane that is designed to set new standards in efficiency by reducing fuel use and emissions by 25% compared to the airplanes it replaces,

while elevating the passenger flight experience. Options for an additional 50 787 and 777X airplanes.

U.S. President Donald J. Trump and His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani Amir of the State of Qatar joined Boeing President and CEO Kelly Ortberg, Boeing Commercial Airplanes President



and CEO Stephanie Pope and Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer to witness the order signing.

"We are happy to announce our agreement with Boeing and our partnership in the largest aircraft order in our history. A critical next step for Qatar Airways on our path



as we invest in the cleanest, youngest and most efficient fleet in global aviation. This so we can meet the strong demand in the airline as we seamlessly connect passengers to the world better than anyone," said Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Officer Engr. Badr Mohammed Al-Meer. "After two consecutive years of record-breaking commercial performance and with this historic Boeing aircraft order we're not simply chasing scale, we're building strength that will allow us to continue to deliver our attached products and customer experiences. We thank our Boeing partners for answering the call and look forward to a future of continued smart growth

together."

"We are deeply honored that Qatar Airways has placed this record-breaking order with Boeing, one that solidifies their future fleet with our market-leading widebody airplane family at its center," said Stephanie Pope, president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes.

"Our team is looking forward to building 787s and 777s for Qatar Airways into the next decade as they connect more people and businesses around the world with unmatched efficiency and comfort."



**Hamburg, Germany, 20 May 2025**

Wizz Air has taken delivery of its first of 47 A321XLR aircraft. The airline becomes the first in the world to operate the A321XLR powered by Pratt & Whitney GTF engines, and the first European low cost operator of the type.

Wizz Air's A321XLRs have 239 seats in a single class configuration featuring the newly designed Airspace cabin with an innovative lighting system and multiple settings to create a perfect environment at different phases of the flight, including boarding, dining, relaxing, sleeping and waking up. With the A321XLR joining its fleet,

Wizz Air is enhancing its capacity to connect Europe and the Middle

East. Wizz Air is an all Airbus operator with a fleet of over 230 A320 Family aircraft in operation and 295 left to be delivered.

The A321XLR is the next evolutionary step of the A320neo Family, responding to market needs for more range and payload, creating even more flexibility and value for the airlines. It will deliver an unprecedented Xtra Long Range of up to 4,700nm, 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 type.

**Toulouse, France, 14 May 2025 –**

Airbus has delivered the first A321neo to Kuwait Airways, the national carrier of the State of Kuwait. The delivery marks the first of nine A321neo aircraft on order with the airline and is part of Kuwait Airways' transformation strategy, which includes fleet modernisation to drive growth.

Kuwait Airways' A321neo features a spacious and modern cabin with 166 seats across two classes - 16 full-flat business class seats offering premium comfort and 150 economy class seats designed for enhanced passenger space. Passengers will enjoy the award-winning Airspace cabin, which offers a quieter and more relaxing atmosphere, with customisable lighting and the latest generation in-flight entertainment and connectivity systems.



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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





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".







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NEWS FROM THE BARN

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



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## Easter Car Show at Spruce Creek





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## BMW Group and Solid Power are testing all-solid-state battery cells in a BMW i7

20.05.2025 Press Release

+++ BMW Group and Solid Power partnership reaches next milestone  
+++ ASSB technology on the road for the first time  
+++ BMW battery expertise and battery strategy ensure access to the latest battery-tech developments +++

The BMW Group is bringing large-format, pure ASSB cells from Solid Power to its test vehicle, a BMW i7, which is being operated in the Munich area. The potential benefits of ASSB technology: higher energy density in a very compact storage system compared to current technologies.

Since 2022, the BMW Group and Solid Power, Inc. (Nasdaq: SLDP) have intensified their activities for the development of all-solid-state battery (ASSB) technology through their technology transfer agreement.

The BMW Group and Solid Power believe in the potential of genuine ASSB technology. With a higher energy density compared to current battery technologies, ASSB batteries have the potential to achieve longer ranges in vehicles without the disadvantages with regard to the weight of the overall storage system.

“Solid Power is extremely proud that our partnership with BMW has resulted in the first demonstration of truly all-solid-state battery cells in a vehicle,” said John Van Scoter, President and Chief Executive



Officer of Solid Power. “We believe in the promise of ASSB’s and continue to drive innovation of our sulfide electrolyte in support of that future for EV’s.”

Martin Schuster, Vice President Battery Cell and Cell Module at the BMW Group, says: “Our BMW i7 ASSB test vehicle on the road is a perfect example of the BMW Group’s technology-open mindset. We are continuously advancing the development of new battery cell technologies and are constantly expanding our know-how with valuable partners such as Solid Power.”

The concept battery integrated in the BMW i7 test vehicle combines proven Gen5 construction principles (prismatic cells in modules) with new, innovative module concepts for integrating ASSB cells from Solid Power.

The management of cell expansion will be investigated here. In addition: How is the operating

pressure controlled and how to adjust the temperature conditions.

The use of solid power cells with sulfide-based electrolytes and their complete integration into a battery pack will provide the BMW Group with further important findings in the test program over the coming months.

The innovative cells were developed and manufactured by Solid Power in collaboration with experts from the BMW Group. Further development steps are required to implement ASSB technology in a competitive overall storage system.

The BMW Group and Solid Power have been cooperating since 2016 through an extended “Joint Development Agreement”, which was supported by BMW Group’s investment in Solid Power in May 2021 as part of a financing round.

May 13, 2025 – Stuttgart/Ibiza.

**Sporty, elegant two-seater for the ultimate open-air experience**  
**Two specially curated design concepts: "Red Ambience" and "White Ambience"**  
**Unmatched refinement with outstanding acoustic and ride comfort**

Mercedes-Maybach expands its product portfolio with the new 2026 Mercedes-Maybach SL 680 Monogram Series – the sportiest model in Maybach brand history. The open-top two-seater combines a dynamic driving experience with intrinsic qualities of Mercedes-Maybach vehicles: skilled craftsmanship, highest quality materials and exquisite details. Arriving at U.S. dealerships in later in 2025, the Mercedes-Maybach SL offers a holistic sensory experience in line with the brand philosophy.

"We want to surprise, inspire and excite our customers. With the Mercedes-Maybach SL Monogram Series, we're offering them the sportiest and most extravagant model we've ever created. It's a true Maybach for the ultimate in open-air-motoring enjoyment."

Daniel Lescow, Head of Mercedes-Maybach, Mercedes-Benz Group AG

**Customized luxury experience with two curated concepts**

The Mercedes-Maybach SL is an extraordinary combination of beauty and sportiness. This is notably expressed by the two curated design concepts. "White Ambience"

presents itself in a new interpretation of Maybach two-tone paintwork with Obsidian Black Metallic over MANUFAKTUR Moonlight White Magno. In "Red Ambience," Obsidian Black Metallic contrasts elegantly with MANUFAKTUR Garnet Red Metallic. Developed for the first time for the new Mercedes-Maybach two-seater, this new color is characterized by its vibrant, rich hue and remarkable depth.

The extensive use of sustainably tanned MANUFAKTUR Crystal White Nappa leather throughout the interior creates an airy, refined ambience. The elegant upholstery adorns the seats with a new, floral design and also extends to the door panels, center console and space behind the seats. The seat backrests and trim elements in silver chrome provide a striking contrast. The intricate design of the seat surface and backrest ensures maximum comfort. The seat side panels are also positioned lower for ease of ingress and egress.

**Maybach exterior design with sporty elements**

The open-top two-seater is the first Maybach model in which the design of the Maybach-specific chrome radiator grille, with its fine vertical slats, has an A-shape contour. In typical sports-car fashion, it shifts the visual center of gravity downward. The contour of the



radiator grille is illuminated, as is the delicately integrated Maybach lettering. The front fascia, with its horizontal air intakes and striking chrome trim, also emphasizes the sporty character of the Maybach SL. Additional distinctive details include the windshield frame finished in gleaming chrome, rose gold accents in the headlights, side sill panels with an integrated chrome element, as well as the hood bearing a standing Mercedes star and chrome element positioned longitudinally. 21-inch Maybach forged wheels, available in five-hole Monoblock or multi-spoke designs, underscore the vehicle's exclusivity.

The rear of the Maybach SL is characterized by the taillights featuring the Mercedes-Maybach logo, a Maybach-specific rear fascia with chrome accents, unique diffuser panel and tailpipe trims with signature horizontal bar. Aerodynamically designed double scoops behind the rear seats, together with the chrome element on the hood, give the two-seater a particularly elegant, sporty profile, especially with the soft top down. The acoustic soft top features a light black fabric with a subtle anthracite Maybach pattern.



# 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.



All photos for this feature: Gary Rosier

**Festivals of Speed - Ocala -04.25**

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# Spring Turkey Rod Run '25



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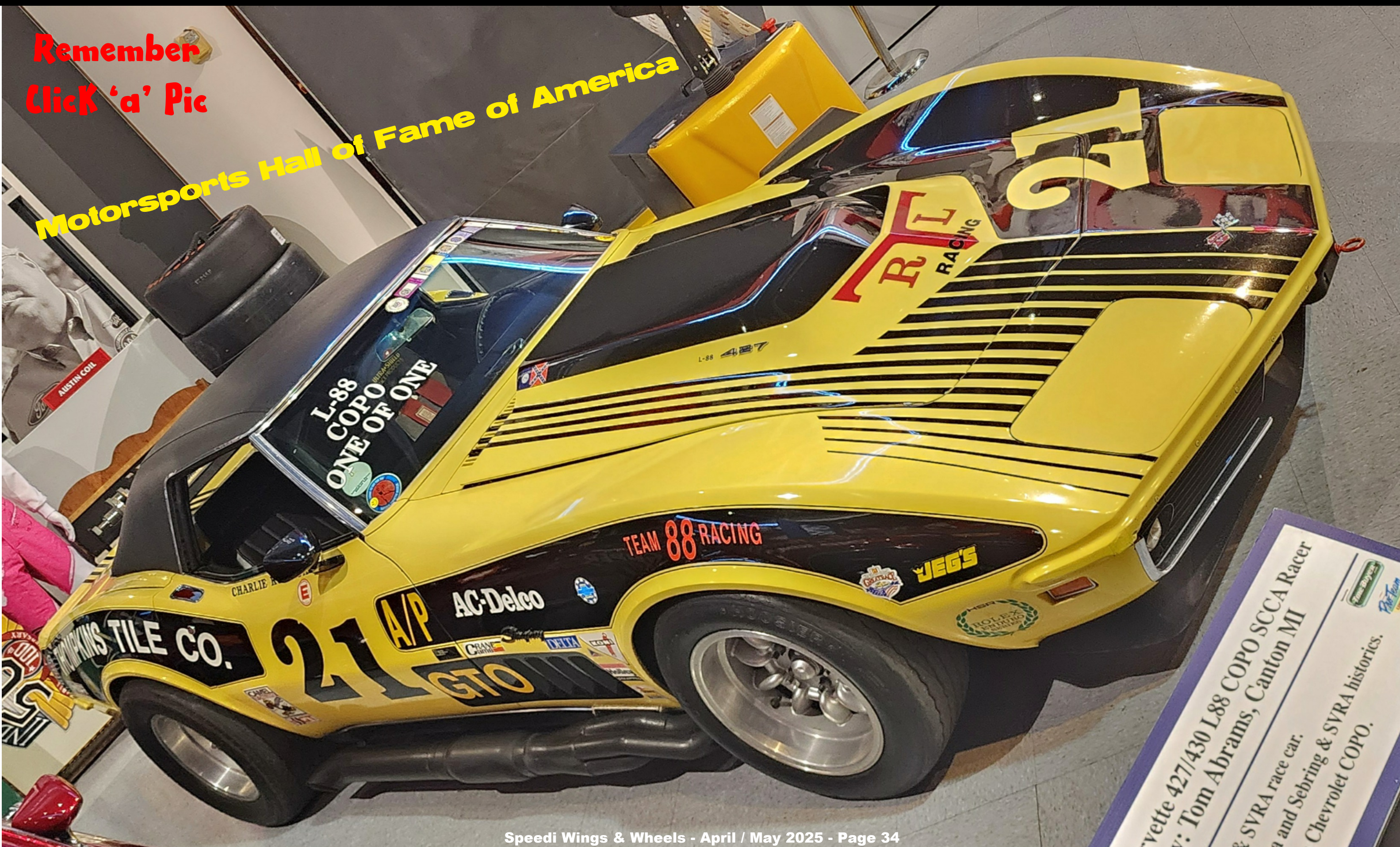
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GATORNATIONALS '25 AS WELL AS MUCH MORE AVIATION AND  
MOTORSPORT ACTION

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