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August / September 2025

Issue No: 81

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VIDEO LINKS**

THIS ISSUE:

EAA AirVenture 2025 - Special Feature

and Much More

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SPEEDI'S BLOG

WELCOME TO
SPEEDI'S Blog.

Once again, no full
Speedi's blog in this
issue.

As I mentioned in the
June / July 2025 edition I
had a second total
engine failure in GOOFY
and another off-airport
landing, this time
missing high tension
power lines by just a few
feet. This not something
I wish to experience
again - but the cause of
the failure is a total
mystery . . .

But then just a couple of
weeks after this event I
suffered and even more
devastating loss.

My wife, of over 53 years
of marriage, had a tragic
accident in our
swimming pool and
sadly she died as a
result.

This has thrown my life
upside down and so the
magazine will not take
its usual form for some
time . . .

I will explain more about
the engine problem in a
future issue. Suffice to
say that Hartzell Engine
Tech has come forward
to help and had it not
been for my wife's
passing I am sure I
would have been flying
by now. But I will be
back flying again
eventually . . .

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This NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope image released on Sept. 12, 2025, features a cloudy starscape from an impressive star cluster. This scene is in the Large Magellanic Cloud, a dwarf galaxy situated about 160,000 light-years away in the constellations Dorado and Mensa. With a mass equal to 10–20% of the mass of the Milky Way, the Large Magellanic Cloud is the largest of the dozens of small galaxies that orbit our galaxy.

ESA/Hubble & NASA, C. Murray, J. Maíz Apellániz

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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 August / September 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 a visit to EAA AirVenture 2025 - 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 *EAA AirVenture 2025*

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CONTENTS

7 EAA AirVenture 2025: This issue features an in depth visit to the world's largest general aviation event - EAA AirVenture. Gary Rosier was there for the full week of aviation action . . .

Regular Features:

- 2 Speedi's Blog:** Steve Wood looks at 'what's hot and what's not' in the world of aviation
- 14 News from the Barn:** News of the events & 'happenings' at Spruce Creek Fly-in.
- 19 Gone Cruisin':** Hot Rods & Cruisers and more . . .
- 22 SpeediCity:** Fun and action from Daytona Beach

**Boeing-Built X-37B
Spaceplane Launches,
Beginning Eighth Mission**

- The returnable orbital test vehicle launched aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station

- Less than six months since it completed its seventh mission, the X-37B is back in space hosting technology demonstrations for several U.S. government partners including the Defense Innovation Unit and Air Force Research Laboratory

**KENNEDY SPACE
CENTER, Fla., Aug. 22,
2025**

-- The Boeing built X 37B Orbital Test Vehicle launched yesterday on its eighth mission, lifting off at 11:50 p.m. ET aboard a SpaceX Falcon 9 from Kennedy Space Center, Fla. The vehicle is healthy on orbit and proceeding with standard checkout.

Less than six months after completing its seventh mission with a landing at Vandenberg Space Force Base, Calif., on March 7, 2025, the spaceplane is back in space. This mission includes a Boeing integrated service module to increase payload capacity for experimentation activities on orbit.

Boeing X-37B launch
[View File](#) [Download File](#)
The X-37B launched from Kennedy



Space Center, Fla. on August 21 at 11:50 p.m. ET aboard a Falcon 9 rocket, commencing its 8th mission (Photo courtesy of SpaceX)

"Our role is to make sure the spaceplane is the most reliable testbed it can be," said Michelle Parker, vice president of Boeing Space Mission Systems. "None of this happens without teamwork. Launch is the starting line for this mission, but the work that follows –the quiet, methodical work on

orbit, analysis and eventual return is where progress is earned."

The X-37B is hosting several technology demonstrations from government partners on this mission, include laser communications and a quantum inertial sensor designed to support navigation when GPS is unavailable. On its previous mission, the vehicle executed a first of its kind aerobraking maneuver to change orbits while conserving propellant.

"Having a returnable space platform allows us to learn faster," said Col. Brian Chatman, installation commander for Space Launch Delta 45. "The data we gather from the X-37B speeds decisions, hardens our architectures, and helps Guardians stay connected and on course even in contested environments. This is how we move from promising ideas to fieldable capability at pace."

The X 37B is a government–industry partnership led by the U.S. Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, with the U.S. Space Force overseeing operations. Boeing teams primarily based in Seal Beach, Calif., and Kennedy Space Center, Fla., design, build, integrate and operate the reusable spaceplane. Since first flight in 2010, the orbital test vehicle has completed seven missions and accumulated more than 4,200 days in space, returning after each flight for inspection and augmentation.

**Toulouse, France, 24 July
2025**

Avolon, a leading global aviation finance company, has placed an order for 90 Airbus aircraft, comprising 15 A330neo and 75 A321neo. This incremental order brings Avolon’s total to 79 A330neos and 264 A321neos.

Andy Cronin, Avolon CEO, commented, “This order demonstrates our strong confidence in the long-term demand for new aircraft. Our scale and balance sheet position us to support our airline customers’ expansion and replacement needs into the next decade. Both the A321neo and A330neo are in high demand, and we expect this to continue given the long-term growth trajectory for the aviation sector. We are delighted to be expanding and extending our long-term partnership with Airbus with this order.”

“Lessors are excellent barometers of the aircraft market, and we are grateful to Avolon for expanding its commitment for the A320 Family and A330neo, so soon after an earlier order two years ago. This endorsement illustrates the strong attractiveness to a wide variety of customers of these two aircraft, the most efficient in their category with the latest technologies embedded, covering the market space from domestic to regional to long haul routes. We value this partnership which has helped open new markets and broaden the customer base for both aircraft types”, said Benoît de



Saint-Exupéry, Airbus EVP Sales of the Commercial Aircraft business.

Powered by the latest generation Rolls-Royce Trent 7000 engines, the A330-900 has a range of 7,200nm / 13,300 km non-stop and reduces fuel burn, CO2 emissions and operating cost by 25% compared to the previous generation aircraft. The A330neo features the award-winning Airspace cabin, which offers passengers a unique experience, high level of comfort, ambience, and design. This includes more individual space, enlarged overhead bins, a new lighting system and access to the latest in-flight entertainment and connectivity systems.

The A321neo is the largest member of Airbus’ best-selling A320neo Family, offering unparalleled range and performance. By incorporating new generation engines and Sharklets, the A321neo brings a 50% noise reduction and more than 20% fuel savings and CO2 reduction compared to previous generation single-aisle aircraft, while maximising passenger comfort in

the widest single-aisle cabin in the sky.

As with all in-production aircraft, the A330neo and A321neo are able to operate with up to 50% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), with a target to increase to up to 100% SAF capability by 2030.

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AirVenture - Day 1

All photos for the AirVenture feature pages 8 through 28 by Gary Rosier

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AirVenture - Day 1

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AirVenture - Day 7



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AirVenture - Day 7





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 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".



Here's a look at the planes at Spruce Creek Fly-in on a Saturday in September 2025.

Photos by Gary Rosier . . .

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Long-distance test successfully completed: EQS with solid-state battery covers 749 miles on a single charge

Sep 9, 2025 – Stuttgart.

Mercedes-Benz continues real-world testing of solid-state battery technology

No charging stops across three countries: From Stuttgart, Germany via Denmark to Malmö, Sweden

Total distance covered: 749 mi (1,205 km) without recharging. Remaining range: 85 mi (137 km)

Formula 1 technology: Solid-state battery developed with Mercedes-AMG High Performance Powertrains (HPP) and cells from U.S.-based solid-state cell manufacturer Factorial Energy

Mercedes-Benz sets new benchmarks in electric mobility with an extraordinary demonstration drive, impressively showcasing the potential and everyday usability of a future battery technology. A lightly modified Mercedes-Benz EQS test vehicle equipped with a lithium-metal solid-state battery was used for the journey. At the end of August, the car completed the 749-mile (1,205-km) trip from Stuttgart in Germany to Malmö in Sweden. Remarkably, it did so without a single charging stop. This real-world achievement proves the technology performs not only in the lab but also on the road.

The EQS surpassed the previous record set by the Vision EQXX on its Stuttgart–Silverstone route by nearly two miles (3 km) (more information here). It also arrived in Malmö with an impressive 85 miles (137 km) of range remaining. This combination of long range, efficiency and technological maturity marks a milestone for solid-state battery development and highlights its potential for future production vehicles. As the inventor of the automobile, Mercedes-Benz once again underscores its ambition to actively shape the future of mobility through this pioneering achievement.



Real-world validation

Following the announcement of road testing in February 2025 (more information here), the drive from Stuttgart, Germany to Malmö, Sweden was part of a comprehensive validation program for solid-state battery technology at Mercedes-Benz. In addition to digital simulations and testing at state-of-the-art facilities in Stuttgart-Untertürkheim and Sindelfingen, the vehicle and battery are being tested under real-world conditions on public roads. The goal is to assess

overall vehicle performance across different climate zones and route profiles and accelerate the path to series production. The recent trip to Malmö adds a real-world long-distance scenario to this testing program.

The route followed highways A7 and E20 through Germany and Denmark to Malmö, Sweden. The optimal route was calculated using Electric Intelligence, factoring in topography, traffic, ambient temperature and energy needs for heating and cooling — without the use of ferries.

“The solid-state battery is a true gamechanger for electric mobility. With the successful long-distance drive of the EQS, we show that this technology delivers not only in the lab but also on the road. Our goal is to bring innovations like this into series production by the end of the decade and offer our customers a new level of range and comfort.”

Markus Schäfer, Member of the Board of Management of Mercedes-Benz Group AG, Chief Technology Officer, Development & Procurement

Technology Background

The solid-state battery system was developed in close collaboration with Mercedes-AMG High Performance Powertrains (HPP), the Formula 1 technology center of the Mercedes-Benz Group in Brixworth, UK. The lithium-metal cells used in the vehicle come from U.S.-based manufacturer Factorial Energy and are based on FEST® technology

Seventy Years of Passion: The Porsche Club of America Celebrates a Milestone Anniversary

09/16/2025

In 2025, the Porsche Club of America (PCA) marks its 70th anniversary—seven decades of community, camaraderie, and an enduring passion for the marque.

Founded in 1955 by Washington, D.C. commercial artist Bill Sholar, the PCA began as a modest gathering of Porsche enthusiasts and has since grown into the largest Porsche club in the world, with more than 145,000 members.

The Club’s origin story is as personal as it is iconic. Sholar, having purchased a 1953 Porsche 356 Coupé, began flashing his headlights at fellow Porsche drivers in greeting. This simple gesture evolved into a desire for deeper connection, culminating in the first PCA meeting on 13 September 1955. Just one year later, the Club hosted its first national gathering—the Porsche Parade—in Gaithersburg, Maryland. That inaugural event drew 64 members and laid the foundation for what would become a cherished annual tradition.

Fast forward to 2025, and the PCA remains true to its founding spirit. The 69th Porsche Parade, held in Oklahoma City from 6 to 12 July, was a highlight of the anniversary year. But the Parade was just one part of a broader celebration that spanned the calendar—from



exclusive events and regional gatherings to the unveiling of a very special car.

To mark the 70th anniversary, PCA collaborated with Porsche Sonderwunsch and Style Porsche to create the 911 Carrera T Club Coupé, a limited-edition model that pays tribute to the Club’s founder. Painted in “Sholar Blue”—a metallic reinterpretation of the Club Blau color first introduced in 2015—the car is a visual and emotional homage to Bill Sholar. Designed by Porsche legend Grant Larson, only 70 units will be produced, exclusively for PCA members in the United States and Canada.

Yet, perhaps the most touching moment of the Parade came not from the cars, but from the people. Hans-Peter Porsche, son of Ferry Porsche, attended the event alongside his son Daniell and grandson Tamino. It was his 33rd Parade, continuing a tradition of Porsche family participation that began

with Ferry himself. Their presence underscored the Club’s motto: “It’s not just the cars; it’s the people.”

As PCA enters its eighth decade, it does so with a renewed commitment to its founding values. From technical workshops and driving tours to concours competitions and community outreach, the Club remains a vibrant hub for Porsche enthusiasts of all ages. And while the cars continue to evolve, the spirit of PCA—rooted in friendship, passion, and shared experience—remains timeless.

Happy 70th, PCA. Here’s to the next chapter.

Photo below: Hans-Peter Porsche



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THE NEXT ISSUE OF SPEEDI WINGS & WHEELS FEATURES THE FESTIVALS OF SPEED FROM OCALA, FLA AS WELL AS MUCH MORE AVIATION AND MOTORSPORT ACTION

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