The Pratt & Whitney R-2800 Double Wasp is an American twin-row, 18-cylinder, air-cooled radial aircraft engine with a displacement of 2,800 in³ (46 L), and is part of the long-lived Wasp family. The R-2800 saw widespread use in many important American aircraft during and after World War II. During the war years, Pratt & Whitney continued to develop new ideas to upgrade the engine, including water injection for takeoff in cargo and passenger planes and to give emergency power in combat.

The Pratt & Whitney R-2800 was the most remarkable piston aircraft engine ever built. This compact 18-cylinder, twin-row radial powered a huge number of World War II fighters, bombers and cargo planes, then went on to propel fleets of 1950s airliners. Though you will see fanciful claims of as much as 2,800 horsepower, the most powerful variants of the R-2800 that went into production cranked out 2,500 hp at takeoff power, according to piston-engine expert Graham White's authoritative book R-2800: Pratt & Whitney's Dependable Masterpiece. Tuned for air racing, some reliably put out 3,000 hp. Too bad the Reno racers didn't have the help of Pratt & Whitney's engineers.

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