

“N200Y” is Official !!

23-003 has been officially assigned the registration number “N200Y” by the FAA! Bill Kinkaid, President of the Classic Lear Jet Foundation, made the announcement at the *Polar Mission* Hangar Party on the evening of April 26th. We then witnessed Bart Gray, Vice-President of the CLJF, sign the AC Form 8050-64 to formally complete the official assignment process. We owe a big ‘Thank You’ to Joel Weber for tracking down the chief pilot and owner of the airplane that had N200Y and explaining the significance of this number to our historic Lear Jet and asking them to let us have it. He then worked tirelessly with them to help them find another suitable number for their airplane. Joel started this quest on October 28, 2022, a little over a month after CLJF received our Articles of Incorporation, and on April 26, 2025 we own it! This is the *same* registration number that she wore at her delivery on October 13, 1964!



Bill Kinkaid, Bart Gray announcing “N200Y”



23-003 N200Y at delivery - October 13, 1964

"The Polar Mission" – Huge Success!

The Polar Mission events started the evening that 36A-022 N31GJ and crew arrived at Jim Lee's hangar at Stearman Field on April 24, 2025. The airplane was all decked out with the colorful logos of each of the mission sponsors. A special decal, placed on each side of the fuselage, just aft of the cabin door, was a note dedicating the mission to William Powell Lear, Jr. by his wife Brenda. Also, special windshield sunshades were made to honor Bill, Jr. and Brenda Lear.

*In Loving Memory of
William Powell Lear, Jr.
Miss you so much...
God Bless the Polar Mission
MRS William Powell Lear, Jr.
AKA your Brenda*

Bill Lear, Jr. tribute decal



Brenda and Bill Jr. windshield sunshade

Paul Bowen, award winning aviation photographer, did an in-flight photo session of the *Polar Mission* Learjet later that same afternoon. These pictures were shown on the big screen during the Hangar Party. Wow! Paul did a fantastic job! Thank You to Jim Lee for loaning Paul his Bonanza for the camera airplane.



36A-022 N31GJ

Paul Bowen

Hangar Party

The Hangar Party was held at Jim Lee's hangar with the *Polar Mission* airplane Learjet 36A-022 N31GJ and her crew, Captain Bart Gray, President of Global Jetcare (also CLJF Vice President), Joshua Podlich, John Bone and Kirby Ezelle in the spotlight. During a break, Bill Kinkaid, CLJF President, announced that the FAA has officially assigned the registration number "N200Y" to 23-003! Joel Weber then told the story of how he was able to get the then current owner of N200Y to give up this number (see the story above). Then Joel handed "Wilson", the volleyball that went along on the record setting *The Century Mission* last year, to Bart Gray to have it be a part of this mission also. The band 'Stimulus Wichita' played great music all evening.



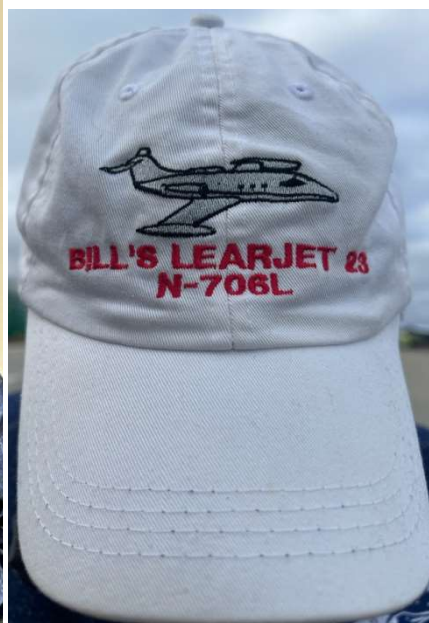
Polar Mission enthusiasts enjoying the party



Bart Gray holding "Wilson"

Bon Voyage event

A large group of people assembled on the Learjet ramp by building 14 on the evening of April 30, 2025 to wish the crew the best of luck on their flight. To kickoff the event a few words were given by Jesse Romo, Wichita Airport Authority, Steve Patrick, Bombardier, Gary Porterfield, Flight Safety, John Grimshaw, LGM Aviation and Mrs. William Powell Lear, Jr. (aka Brenda), the 'Exclusive Sponsor' of *The Polar Mission*. During Brenda's talk she presented Bart Gray the last of the very few hats that Bill Lear, Jr. had made, many years ago for his airplane 23-026 N706L, to wear for luck on his upcoming polar circumnavigation flight.



Bart Gray, Brenda Lear – Hat Presentation

Bill Lear, Jr. Hat - 23-026 N706L



John Bone, Josh Podlich, Brenda Lear, Bart Gray, Kirby Ezelle – 30 min before launch



Bon Voyage crowd watching as cabin door closes, starting *The Polar Mission*

36A-022 started her taxi out for takeoff at 6:57 pm from the ramp in front of building 14 at the Learjet factory.



36A-022 N31GJ and her crew start their taxi out for takeoff at 6:57 pm

Takeoff was at 7:02 pm and was immediately followed by flying over the factory where 36A-022 N31GJ was built back in 1976.



36A-022 N31GJ factory flyover

Classic Lear Jet Foundation is a non-profit IRS 501(c)(3) corporation. Donors can deduct contributions they make to CLJF under IRC Section 170. Donate at <https://classiclear.org/>

Welcome Home event

The Polar Mission crew landed in Wichita on runway 19R at 2:10 pm on May 5, 2025. After clearing Customs, they taxied back to the same spot on the Learjet ramp near building 14 from where they departed the previous Wednesday.



36A-022 N31GJ on final approach to runway 19R



Home again!

The Welcome Home event was well attended, especially considering the flight was delayed until Monday afternoon! The crew was presented with a champagne toast courtesy of Jim Lee of Lee Aerospace, sponsor of *The Polar Mission*. A cake was presented then cut by Bart Gray and served to everyone by the crew from the wing of the airplane!



Crew Champaign Toast provided by Jim Lee of Lee Aerospace

Wichita Mayor Lilly Wu proclaimed May 5, 2025 as “The Classic Lear Jet Foundation Polar Mission Day”.



Bart Gray, John Bone, Kirby Ezelle, Josh Podlich, Mayor Lilly Wu

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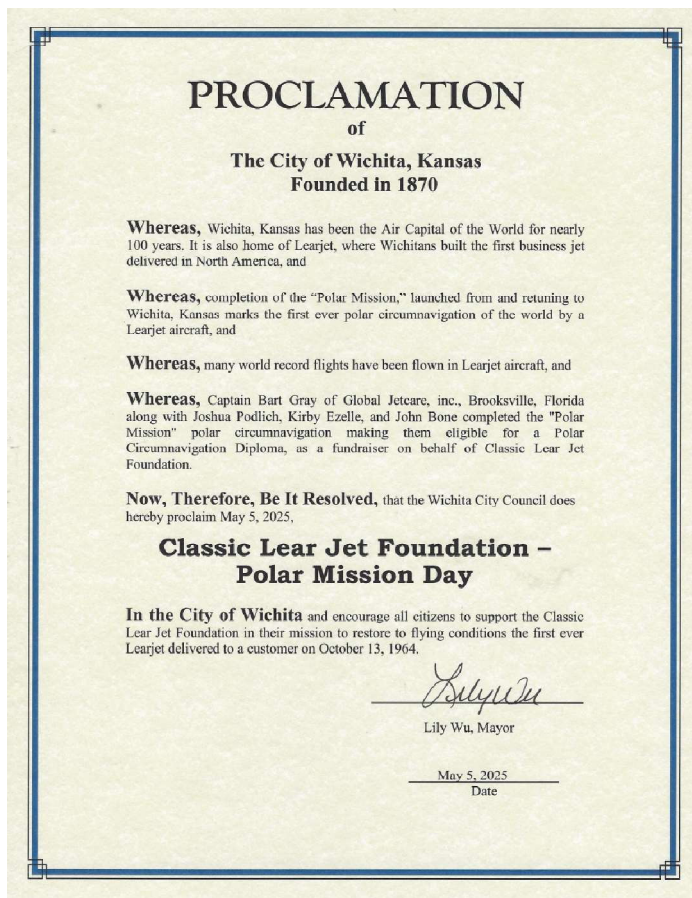


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Cit of Wichita Proclamation



Welcome Home Cake

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John Bone, Josh Podlich (behind John with sunglasses), Bart Gray, Kirby Ezelle

The Polar Mission circumnavigated the globe from south to north by flying past 75 degrees latitude at each pole in the total flight time of was 57 hours 36 minutes (unofficial)! The total elapsed time was 115 hours 8 minutes (unofficial). This time includes two ground delays, both in Ushuaia, Argentina (SAWH). The first was because of poor forecast weather back in SAWH on their return from the flight down to 75 degrees south, so they spent the night of May 1st in SAWH. The next day, May 2nd, they flew down to 75 degrees south and returned to SAWH as planned. Once back at SAWH and refueled, the weather forecast for the fuel stop at Saint Helena Airport, Saint Helena (FHSB) was below the minimums required for flight planning to a remote airport, so they spent a second night in SAWH, departing on May 3rd to continue *The Polar Mission*.

As part of *The Polar Mission*, the crew conducted a scientific experiment to measure the gravitational changes with latitude at each fuel stop along their flight. They compared the predicted weights to the actual scale weights and successfully showed that the predictions were within one-tenth of 1%!

The crew are now awaiting their well earned 'Polar Circumnavigation Diploma' for *The Polar Mission*!

The Polar Mission flight was *entirely* funded by Bart Gray and Global Jetcare. Bart has allowed the Classic Lear Jet Foundation to use the flight sponsorships for our fundraising efforts to restore 23-003.

The Classic Lear Jet Foundation wishes to thank Bombardier for their generous help in making *The Polar Mission* a great success. They graciously opened building 14 for the launch and welcome home events as well as helping marshal, refuel and hangar both Global Jetcare Learjets, 36A-022 N31GJ and 35A-425 N11GJ.

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Progress report, May 2025

The news this month is the start of the removal of the remaining foam in the cabin by using a new technique of *dry ice* blasting. Just like sand blasting except using dry ice pellets instead of sand. This new process removes the foam without harming the metal, paint or sealant. Ryan Thimesch of BEPC is donating his time and equipment to help us rapidly progress to the next stage of the restoration: structural inspection. (Read more about Ryan and his company in the December 2024 issue of RECHARGE)



Loading dry ice pellets



Ryan Thimesch blasting fuselage foam

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Wow!! What a dramatic and easy way to completely remove the foam! Leaving a clean surface and finely powdered foam that is very easy to sweep up!

Don't you wish that we had this technology back in the day?

For example, here are the before and after pictures of the aft cabin:



Before

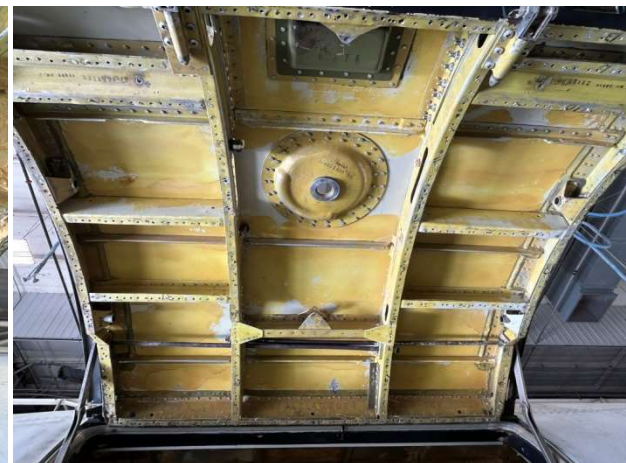


After

And the upper cabin door:



Before



After

Volunteer Spotlight – Jacqueline Adamson



I have lived in Wichita all my life. I attended Wichita State University. I have 2 daughters and one granddaughter, and my hobbies are cooking and working out.

I have been in aviation since 2006 and with Learjet (Bombardier) since March 2011. My current role is Customer Project Manager for BAS. I only have one customer and that is NetJets, both Challenger and Global fleet. I oversee the aircraft maintenance projects from arrival through Return to Service, and this is for both scheduled and non-scheduled maintenance visits. I am very passionate about my work, and I enjoy my current role very much.

I joined CLJF through Julie Osguera, who first recruited me to help with an auction back in October of 2023. Julie and I had worked together at Learjet, specifically on the L85 development program. Seeing an aircraft from the design stage through conformity and flight really solidified my passion for aviation, specifically the Learjet brand and its aircraft. Seeing the Lear 23 restored would be one of the great moments in aviation history and I am honored to be able to volunteer my time in whatever way I can be useful so that goal may be achieved.

[Jacqueline has volunteered to be the CLJF website focal]

60 years Ago This Month

Bill Lear, Sr. earns his Lear Jet Type Rating on April 30, 1965 and the next day, May 1st, his son John Lear becomes the third member of the Lear family to earn his Lear Jet Type Rating.

A new anti-skid braking system is announced that will reduce the landing distance by 1,100 ft!

23-002 N802L makes her 500th flight on the April 6, 1965 accumulating 707 flight hours!



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23-007 D-IHAQ becomes the 1st Lear Jet to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Bill Lear, Jr., President of Executive Aviation and the Lear Jet distributor for Europe and Africa was there to greet the airplane upon landing. She made the trip from Wichita to Frankfurt, West Germany, 5,577 miles, in 10 hours 17 minutes, with 4 fuel stops, and was delivered to Harald Quandt. Also on hand was Miss Fassi Feyel, a pilot in the Quandt organization, the 1st woman to receive a business jet type rating earlier in the year.

23-009 N425EJ flew every day for a month, 175 hours, without a single cancellation for any reason!

CLJF Merchandise at KAM!

The Kansas Aviation Museum (KAM) gift shop, Amelia's Landing, carries some of the most popular Classic Lear Jet Foundation merchandise! You can visit the KAM gift shop at 3350 George Washington Blvd, Wichita, Kansas 67210 or by phone 316-683-9242. See their open hours on their website: <https://kansasaviationmuseum.org/>

Remember that your purchase supports the restoration of 23-003!!

Classic Lear Jet Foundation – Contact Info

Website: <https://classiclear.org>



Scan QR code:

Facebook: Classic Lear Jet Foundation

e-mail: info@Classiclear.org

Linkedin: Classic Lear Jet Foundation



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