

Progress report, July 2025

We are prepping the fuselage, tip tanks and horizontal stabilizer for transport to a paint facility for paint stripping. The keel beam and doors have been reinstalled to prevent the fuselage from twisting or bending during lifting and transport.



Keel Beam and Emergency Exit Door Reinstalled



Horizontal Stab and Tip Tanks

The parts room has been set up and we now have a couple of volunteers that are developing the inventory control system and ordering parts.

When the airplane comes back from paint strip, we will remove the windows, finish the internal foam removal and get the Non-Destructive Inspection (NDI) started. We will then start repairing or removing any corrosion that is found on the skins and structure. Also, we are looking into a potential repair of the discovered wing corrosion.

We will also get the wing leading edges cleaned up and inspected for any excessive corrosion.

Will You Volunteer?

We need your help with the restoration of 23-003! Help in *all* areas! A&P's, electricians and all people willing to assist others, move stuff around, hand a screwdriver to a mechanic, fill out forms and paperwork, push a broom or just provide enthusiastic support to others! We can use your expertise, whatever and however you can help! Schedules are flexible to your availability!

You don't have to be a former or current Learjet employee to volunteer!

Direct questions and to volunteer please contact our volunteer coordinator, Brenda Parks, through her email: Brenda.Parks@ClassicLear.org

Tool Want List

We need these tools to support the restoration of 23-003. Please let us know if you have or know of a source for any of these items either new or used. Send us your/their contact info to the CLJF email: info@ClassicLear.org and we will take it from there.

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- Bandsaw
- Drill press
- Tabletop disc sander
- Vise
- Sheet metal shear
- Sheet metal break
- Hydraulic press
- Solvent tank

These will make for a well-equipped shop!

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Visitors, July 2025

Clay Lacy, Lynn Krogh, Scott Patterson and Emma Pham visited 23-003 on Friday afternoon, July 11, 2025 (Clay and Lynn are our Primary Acquisition Donors). Clay was in Wichita to conduct some business and receive an award from the National Aeronautic Association (NAA) later that evening. He arrived in town early that day so that he could make a special visit to 23-003 to see firsthand our restoration progress. We showed Clay the Model 23 control wheel that had been recently donated. As he held it, he said that it brought back many good memories of flying Lear Jets. Clay received his FAA Lear Jet 'check ride' in 23-003 on October 10, 1964. The October 10th entry in the 23-003 logbook (pictured below) shows this flight. Also, on this page is the October 13th entry that is the delivery flight of 23-003!



Clay Lacy 'Flying' Once Again



Emma Pham, Clay Lacy (seated), Lynn Krogh, Bill Kinkaid, Jim Tidball, Scott Patterson, Jeff Epke

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AIRCRAFT LOG						
YEAR	MO.	DAY	RECORDING TACH. READING	TIME THIS FLIGHT	TOTAL TIME	SIGNATURE
64					27+00	
25	OCT	9		1+15	28+15	BEARD/PUCKETT
	OCT	9		3+00	31+15	BEARD/LEAR
→	OCT	10		4+00	35+15	" / DORN / LACY
	OCT	11		6+00	41+15	" / LEAR
	OCT	13		5+50	47+05	" / CASSIDY
	OCT	14		2+50	49+55	" / CASSIDY
	OCT	15		5+55	55+50	" / PAULSON

23-003 logbook showing Clay Lacy's Check Ride on October 10th

Students of the Flight Safety Learjet 45 class came out to visit 23-003 N200Y on July 10, 2025. They were very interested in the restoration progress and asked many questions. Classic Lear Jet Foundation board member Ron Forshee conducted the tour.



Flight Safety Class

If you or your group would like to visit 23-003 and take a tour of the restoration progress, send your request to the CLJF email: info@ClassicLear.org

NAA Awards Ceremony

The annual National Aeronautics Association (NAA) awards ceremony was held on July 11, 2025 at the Kansas Aviation Museum (KAM). Clay Lacy was presented the NAA Certificate of Honor for his aviation achievements by Amy Spowart, President and CEO of NAA.

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Clay Lacy, Amy Spowart, President & CEO of NAA

The crew of *The Century Mission* received the NAA Certificate of Record for their record setting around the world flight April 3-6, 2024. John Bone accepted the award on behalf of the Global Jetcare crew.



L-R: Chris Marshall, CLJF Secretary, Amy Spowart, President & CEO of NAA, Greg Principato, FAI President, John Bone of Global Jetcare, Art Greenfield, Senior VP of Contest & Records

Sharkey Baz

It is with great sadness that we announce the loss of Sharkey Baz on July 15, 2025. He had a long and personal connection with 23-003 when she was registered as N3BL. Sharkey was Chief Pilot for 23-003 N3BL and came to own her at one point. He was the last guy to fly her before she was put into storage at Bartow Executive Airport, Bartow, Florida. Sharkey came out to the Bartow airport to visit 23-003 N3BL on February 21, 2023 as we were preparing to disassemble her for her long truck ride back to Wichita. He told us many stories of flying 23-003 and asked if he could climb aboard. He said that since he was at the controls when 23-003 last put her wheels on the ground almost 20 years ago, he wanted to be at the controls when they come off the ground again. So, with Sharkey in the pilot's seat, we jacked 23-003 to get the wheels off of the ground. Not exactly what he had in mind!

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Sharkey Baz in 23-003 Cockpit

Sharkey said that he couldn't wait to see 23-003 restored so he could fly her again!
Happy landings, Sharkey!! You will be remembered by all of us connected to 23-003!!

Greenwood Collection Progress

In May we hired Kayla Nelson, an experienced archivist, to help organize, inventory and preserve the Jim Greenwood Collection. Here is her latest report:

Significant progress has been made on the ongoing archival organization efforts for the Jim Greenwood Collection. I have completed the assessment of 70 boxes of books, determining appropriate disposition or collection accession. Once the materials designated for disposition are removed from the storage unit, shelving can be installed. I am pleased to report that work has begun on a collection preservation plan that will establish protocols for maintaining the integrity and longevity of the Jim Greenwood Collection. Additionally, Catalogit collection management software has been implemented, which will streamline documentation, improve search capabilities, and enhance overall collection accessibility. These efforts represent important steps toward establishing professional archival standards for the Classic Lear Jet Foundation's collections.

60 years Ago

The first seminar for Lear Jet pilots, an industry first, was held on June 29, 1965.

Frank Sinatra took his 23-031 N175FS on a 10 day, 17,000 mile trip to Europe, Israel, etc.

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RECHARGE!

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23-028 N818LJ left Dallas, Texas on June 22, 1965 on a three week tour of Europe not missing a single ETA by more than 15 minutes! She was the 1st Lear Jet to cross the Atlantic Ocean by both the northern and southern routes. They flew 15,000 miles over 21 days.

23-028A N803LJ was the 1st Lear Jet in Latin American and flew a four day demonstration tour in Caracas, Venezuela. Every 30 minutes the Caracas radio broadcast: "The jet aircraft flying over the city is not from the military and does not mean a revolution. It's a Lear Jet from America giving demonstrations!"

Executive Jet Aviation (EJA) operates eight Lear Jets as an air-taxi averaging 150 hours flying time each month. The Lear Jet is the only business jet approved for air-taxi operations.

Bill Lear, Sr. is the 1st man in history to design, build and win certification for a jet airplane.....all with his own money too!

A new Model 23 is priced at \$595,000. Lear Jet now has 120 firm orders!

Father Richard Spellman, Vice president of the National Association of Priest Pilots, becomes the 1st clergyman in the world to earn the coveted Lear Jet Gold Pin.

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>



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