

## Rebuild of 23-003 Officially Starts!!

**LATE BREAKING NEWS:** The rebuilding of 23-003 N200Y has officially started! On January 28, 2026 the first set of wires for the new wire harness were cut! Volunteers Denver Plumb and Mike Johnson made the first cut! We would like to thank John Bowman and Larry Thimmesch of Incora for the donation of the wire.



Denver Plumb, Mike Johnson with 1<sup>st</sup> Wire Set

## Progress report, January 2026

We are making great progress in getting all the removed parts identified with part numbers and returned to the storage racks. We are working with Katie Yaverski to get all the racks identified and labeled for location identification.

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One of the Storage Racks with Removed Parts

We are moving forward with a partnership with S.E.A.L. Aviation for overhaul and repair of numerous items and components! They will be a great asset to CLJF and the efforts to rebuild 23-003.

The wing from of 23-003 is now in a stored position on its leading edge against the south hangar wall in order to give us some additional working room in the hangar.



Wing Being Lowered. Bill Kinkaid, Jim Tidball (both behind forklift), John Reisch, Hartney Hummer

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Hartney Hummer Beside Wing in Storage Position (Bottom Side Shown)

We are building the last cradle to hold the fuselage in position so we can remove some of the skins that need to be replaced and facilitate the completion of the NDI Inspection. When Hartney Hummer finishes the last cradle, for the aft fuselage, we will secure all the cradles and supports in position to ensure no shifting occurs while the skins are removed.

Careful disassembly of the throttle quadrant, recently donated by Kevin Betson in November 2025, has started. All parts will be cleaned, inspected and repaired or replaced if needed, then during reassembly, we will be replacing all the wiring, electrical components and a new overlay will be installed. We are currently looking for a new flap switch P/N MS25125-B1 / 8857K40. Do you have one or know where we can find one?



Donated Throttle Quadrant

As you can see in the photo below, there are lots of very small parts that must be removed and numbered in to order to ensure proper reassembly.

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Throttle Quadrant Detail Parts

## Volunteers

Our recent urgent request for volunteers was met with overwhelming response! A sincere **THANK YOU** to all of you who responded so quickly!

### CLJF on 'Good Day Kansas'

CLJF board members Chris Marshall and Dick Kovich were interviewed on January 23, 2026 for a future segment of KSN TV's 'Good Day Kansas' show. KSN is a local Wichita TV station. KSN's Avery Osen, host of the lifestyle show, conducted the interview asking numerous questions about CLJF, our mission, the significance of 23-003 and our restoration progress. This segment of the show, which interviewed three other aviation groups, was dedicated to Aviation Honors and was sponsored by the Skyward Credit Union who was represented by Aggie Tuxhorn, EVP, Chief Brand Officer. We were hosted by Jamie Bailey, Account Executive at KSN TV.

As soon as we get word when the episode airs, we will let you know!



Avery Osen, Aggie Tuxhorn, Dick Kovich, Chris Marshall

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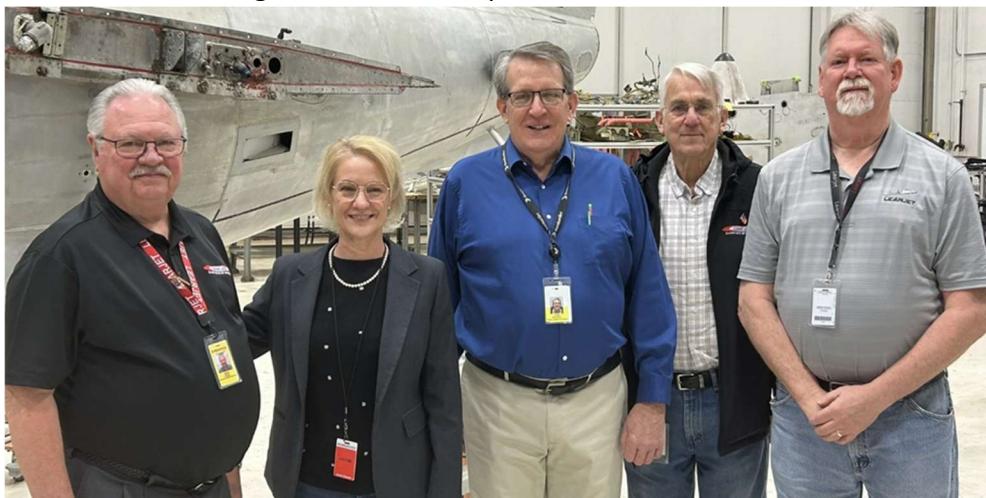
## Visitors, January 2026

Our first visitors of 2026 were on January 8<sup>th</sup> when the Flight Safety International (FSI) Model 45 training class visited 23-003 with their instructor Abe Vidulich. They were excited to see the restoration progress and learn about the historical significance of our Lear Jet. Rick Rowe, CLJF Director of Public Relations provided the tour for the class.



FSI students and Instructor Abe Vidulich (center)

On January 9, 2026, we were honored to host a visit by Karyn Page, Commercial Banking Consultant, at Intrust Bank. Karyn was quite impressed with CLJF, 23-003's history and our restoration progress. After the tour of 23-003, we had a very productive discussion with Karyn, tapping into her extensive knowledge of the aviation industry. She graciously provided us her insight and advice. She even gave herself a couple of action items!



L-R: Rick Rowe, Karyn Page, Chris Marshall, Ron Forshee, Bill Kinkaid

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Jerel Bristol, president of S.E.A.L. Aviation, flew in on January 13, 2026 to see 23-003 N200Y first hand and to discuss his company's capabilities to help our restoration.



L-R: Bart Gray, Rick Rowe, Chris Marshall, Stan Tolle, Bill Kinkaid, Chris Zalusky, Ron Forshee, Jim Edwards, Tim Walker, Jerel Bristol

## Visit 23-003

You and your group are welcome to tour 23-003 N200Y. Contact Rick Rowe at [Rick.Rowe@ClassicLear.org](mailto:Rick.Rowe@ClassicLear.org). to set up a tour of our restoration. (Note: Tours will have to be scheduled on non-NDI testing days because of the use of X-rays.)

## CLJF Board Member Honored

CLJF board member Brian Barents was the honoree at the Wichita Aero Club Trophy Gala on Saturday, January 31, 2026 for his very impressive career in aviation. Brian was president and CEO of Learjet from 1989 to 1996. He accepted the award from Ashley Bowen Cook, the Wichita Aero Club Trophy Committee Chair.

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Brian Barents, Ashley Bowen Cook

In attendance to support Brian were several CLJF board members and volunteers. Also attending, as guests of CLJF, were Mr. and Mrs. Don Grommesh and Kayla Nelson and her husband. Don, Lear Jet badge number 8, was Bill Lear's Chief Engineer and began his Lear Jet career in 1962 working for Bill in Switzerland. Kayla is archiving the Greenwood collection.



L-R: Ron Forshee, Jim Edwards, Rick Rowe, Don & Marilyn Grommesh, Dick & Rhonda Kovich, Chris Marshall, Kayla Nelson, Tom Zwemke

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## 2025 In Review

**Wow** another fantastic year for 23-003 N200Y and the Classic Lear Jet Foundation!

2025 started with the purchase of many tools and airplane jacks from a local auction. In January, all cables, tubes, wiring, plumbing, controls, etc. were removed with the exception of the main wire bundle at the aft pressure bulkhead. Next, we mounted the wing in the 'rotisserie' tool, removed the fuselage fuel bladders and started to manually remove the fuselage interior foam.

All of the remaining wire harnesses of the total 2 1/3 miles of 60 year old wiring and the fuselage fuel bladders were removed by the end of March.

On April 26, 2025 the registration number "N200Y" was officially assigned to 23-003 by the FAA!

In late April through early May, we followed the progress of Captain Bart Gray, President of Global Jetcare (also CLJF Vice President) and the Global Jet Care flight crew as they circumnavigated both poles from south to north in Learjet 36A-022 N31GJ to earn the coveted Polar Circumnavigation Diploma. The flight, named 'The Polar Mission', was dedicated to William Powell (Bill) Lear, Junior and made on behalf of Classic Lear Jet Foundation. The Polar Mission flight was entirely funded by Bart Gray and Global Jetcare. This allowed the Classic Lear Jet Foundation to use the flight for our fundraising efforts to restore 23-003 through sponsorships for each leg of the flight and the sale of mission patches and stickers (donated by Bart Gray) and t-shirts. We had launch party, bon voyage and welcome home events. Many well-wishers watched 36A-022 N31GJ takeoff from the Learjet factory, where she was built in 1976 (49 years prior), at 7:02 pm on April 30th and land back in Wichita at 2:10 pm on May 5<sup>th</sup> with zero issues (squawks) throughout the entire mission. Lilly Wu, Wichita Mayor, was in attendance to welcome home Bart and crew. She read a proclamation declaring May 5, 2025 as "Classic Lear Jet Foundation - Polar Mission Day". She also presented each crew member with a Certificate of Excellence on behalf of the City of Wichita.

Starting on May 9<sup>th</sup> we began removing the remaining foam in the fuselage by using the new technique of *dry ice* blasting. Just like sand blasting except using dry ice pellets instead of sand. This method does not harm the metal, paint or sealant. Ryan Timesch, owner of Best Engineered Performance Coatings (BEPC), donated his time and equipment to save us the numerous labor hours that would have been necessary to manually scrape out the foam, helping us rapidly prepare for the necessary structural inspections.

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Also, in May, we hired archivist Kayla Nelson to inventory, catalog and preserve the numerous items in the 'Greenwood Collection'. She is going through every box, envelope, file, etc., cataloging each item and separating out duplicate and non-Learjet items.

On July 15, 2025 we mourned the loss of Sharkey Baz. He had a long and personal connection with 23-003, was Chief Pilot for 23-003 N3BL and came to own her at one point. He was the last pilot 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 enthusiastically supported our restoration and looked forward to flying her again.

In August, 23-003's fuselage, horizontal stabilizer and tip tanks were loaded up and taken to an anonymous donor to have their paint stripped. They returned in September. The cabin windows and cockpit windshields were removed in October allowing the start of the structural inspections. Also, each wire in the various harnesses was identified on drawings, their purpose determined, then their length measured and recorded in a 'cut file' to assist in the build of the new harness.

Pressure testing of the right wing began on September 2<sup>nd</sup> to verify that there were no leaks in the wing. Any leak would result in a fuel leak which would make the wing unusable. The wing passed the test!

International Turbine Industries (ITI), hosted a visit on September 27, 2025 from CLJF board member Chris Marshall. He was shown the CJ610-1 engines from 23-003. They have been disassembled, tagged and racked awaiting the start of overhaul to coincide with the restoration of Lear Jet 23-003.

Non-Destructive Inspection (NDI) testing started on the forward fuselage of 23-003 on December 11, 2025 by an anonymous donor who provided both the labor and the specialized equipment. Less than two years since we started the restoration of 23-003! NDI testing is a lengthy, slow and steady process that uses X-ray photography to detect structural defects such as corrosion, cracks, etc. NDI testing will continue into 2026.

During the course of the year, we spent considerable time evaluating the necessary repairs and restoration of 23-003's structure and systems. We made many field trips in search of aircraft structural and system components. Most of which are long obsolete. We found some, have leads on others and know that we will have to fabricate some.

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By the end of the year, we had surpassed **1,900** volunteer hours! **1,400** of these were in 2025!

CLJF is extremely grateful to our donors for services, like those mentioned above, components, fasteners, tools, fabrication of replacement parts, etc. We sincerely appreciate your very generous support to make 23-003 N200Y airworthy again.

**THANK YOU!!**

The CLJF spread the word about our foundation at numerous public events:

- CLJF participated in the Wichita St. Patrick's Day parade using Chris Marshall's 1968 Cadillac convertible on March 15, 2025. Volunteers walked along beside it passing out CLJF logo merchandise to the crowd.
- The annual National Aeronautics Association (NAA) awards ceremony was held on July 11, 2025 at the Kansas Aviation Museum (KAM). Clay Lacy, a Primary Acquisition Sponsor for the purchase of 23-003, was presented the NAA Certificate of Honor for his aviation achievements by Amy Spowart, President and CEO of NAA
- Also, at the annual National Aeronautics Association (NAA) awards ceremony, 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 Bart Gray, CLJF Vice President, and the entire Global Jetcare crew
- The Classic Lear Jet Foundation was a sponsor for the EAA Chapter 88 Annual Air Capitol Fly-In at the Col. James Jabara Airport on August 30<sup>th</sup>
- CLJF volunteered to help at the National Aviation Hall of Fame (NAHF) enshrinement dinner and ceremony on the evening of September 19, 2025.
- Classic Lear Jet Foundation was represented at the 2025 NBAA-BACE show in Las Vegas, Nevada on October 14-16, 2025, by Rick Rowe, Director of Public Relations, Chris Marshall, Secretary, Tim Walker, Treasurer and Bart Gray, Vice President. Clay Lacy, a Primary Acquisition Sponsor for the purchase of 23-003, was on hand for a 'meet and greet' the afternoon of the first day of the show
- CLJF board member Brian Barents was the honoree at the Wichita Aero Club Trophy Gala on Saturday, January 31, 2026. Several CLJF board members and volunteers attended. Also attending, as guests of CLJF, were Mr. and Mrs. Don Grommesh and Kayla Nelson and her husband.

## Documents Needed

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To support the restoration of 23-003 N200Y, we need help locating some technical information.

Thanks to several of you we have a complete listing of these by number and title. Now we are looking for a complete set of the documents themselves:

- Airplane Accessory Kits (AAK)
- Airplane Modification Kits (AMK)
- Service Kits (SK)
- Service Bulletins (SB) – pre ATA code
- Service Bulletins (SB) – by ATA code

## 60 Years Ago

In 1965, 158 business jets were delivered. Lear Jet delivered more than all other manufacturers combined: Lear Jet 80, Jet Commander 32, Sabreliner 28, Jetstar 18. Lear Jet delivered 14 of these airplanes in December.

The price of the new Model 24, currently in Flight Testing, was reduced to \$649,000 including paint and complete interior.

Model 40 Lear Liner is progressing toward scheduled 1<sup>st</sup> flight in the spring of 1967. A full-scale mockup is in work. It will have a full interior, one half in the passenger configuration and the other half in the executive configuration.

Ford Motor Company becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> car company to offer the 8-track system, beginning with the 1966 models. 8-track systems are now being shipped nationwide to Ford and Chrysler dealerships and to B.F. Goodrich and Sears Roebuck outlets.

23-048 N805LJ flies 3 round trips from the Sugar Bowl taking 15 fans home to New Orleans, Florida and Illinois covering 4,548 miles in 10 hours 50 minutes in a single day.

## CLJF Merchandise

Check out the online store at the CLJF website: <https://classiclear.org> which is hosted by Midwest Single Source (MWSS). They have all of the CLJF logo items for sale; caps, t-shirts, polos, sweatshirts, jackets, mugs, tumblers, *Century Mission* and *Polar Mission* flight patches and stickers, etc.

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LEAR JET

CLASSIC LEAR JET FOUNDATION

VOLUME 1

**RECHARGE!**

JANUARY 2026

NUMBER 32



Black & Red Coffee Cup



Baseball Cap – Navy

Check out the catalog of items at: <https://ClassicLearJetFoundation.liftoff.shop/> or use the QR code:



Remember that your purchase will support the restoration of 23-003!!

## **Classic Lear Jet Foundation – Contact Info**

Website: <https://classiclear.org>

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