

Progress report, March 2026

Our March progress has been slowed somewhat because of the construction activity being accomplished in bays 1 and 10 at the north end of building 14. 23-003 is in bay 9 which shares a hangar wall with bay 10. The construction has cut electrical power to this wall, but we are working around this problem. Also, our access to bay 9 now involves having to go through a badge access turnstile which limits our volunteers to those of us who have contractor badges.

Even with these construction issues, we are continuing with the cutting and marking of the new wiring for the new wiring harness and tracking parts. Also, the wing that we acquired from 23-024 arrived at building 14 on March 3, 2026. We are using this wing to salvage parts including the leading edges, hydraulic components, etc. that will help with the restoration of 23-003 and needed spares.

We are completing the final leveling of the fuselage and securing the supports. This will allow us to remove damaged fuselage skins. With these skins removed, Non-Destructive Inspections (NDI) can continue in order to provide us additional data on the fuselage structural integrity.



Fuselage Ready for Final Leveling

Ed Grabman, Experimental Test Pilot at the Bombardier Flight Test Center, has agreed to chair the 23-003 Cockpit Configuration Committee. This committee is tasked with determining the cockpit upgrades required to operate 23-003 in the current airspace system while maintaining, as much as possible, the look of the original cockpit.

Parts donated by Incora are continuing to arrive with the latest delivery on March 3rd. These much needed, and greatly appreciated, parts include mechanical hardware, aircraft wiring and some electrical components.

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Latest Incora Delivery

On March 13, 2026, CLJF board members Bill Kinkaid, president, and Dick Kovich, historian, met with Carl Ward and his son Keith of Luxor Leather. We discussed their interest in providing the interior seat fabrics, carpeting and side wall panel materials for 23-003. They will attempt to duplicate 23-003's original interior! Although we have several black and white photos of the original interior, only one color photo is known to exist. Using these photos, Carl and Keith will determine the original colors, style and type of fabric and carpeting. Then they will manufacture the seat and sidewall fabrics and floor carpet for 23-003!

Lear Jet has long been a part of the Ward family. Carl and his father, Herb, both worked at Lear Jet. Herb 1963-1976 and Carl 1966-1970. Also, Herb would take Carl's younger brother, Mike, to his office from time to time where he would hang out with the Lear Jet pilots.



Carl and Keith Ward

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Only Known Color Photo of 23-003 Interior



Early Lear Jet Ad showing 23-003 Aft Bench Seat
L-R: Alice Rand, Harvey Anslem, Millie Shook (All Lear Jet Employees at the time)

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23-003 Left Front Passenger Seat

Help Wanted:

Project Manager

The CLJF is looking for a volunteer to become the Project Manager of our 23-003 N200Y restoration project. If you are interested in helping to make 23-003 flyable again, please let us know and we will contact you with the details of the position.

A&P Mechanics

We have a current need for volunteer A&P Mechanics to supervise the other volunteers as they work on various 23-003 restoration projects. We need A&P coverage commitment for 3 days a week from 9:00 am to noon. This can be one person for three days or three different people, one day each. It does not involve Return to Service activities. Since we intend to fly 23-003 N200Y, we must follow the protocols for all maintenance accomplished on the airplane.

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

To volunteer please contact our volunteer coordinator, Brenda Parks, through her email: Brenda.Parks@ClassicLear.org

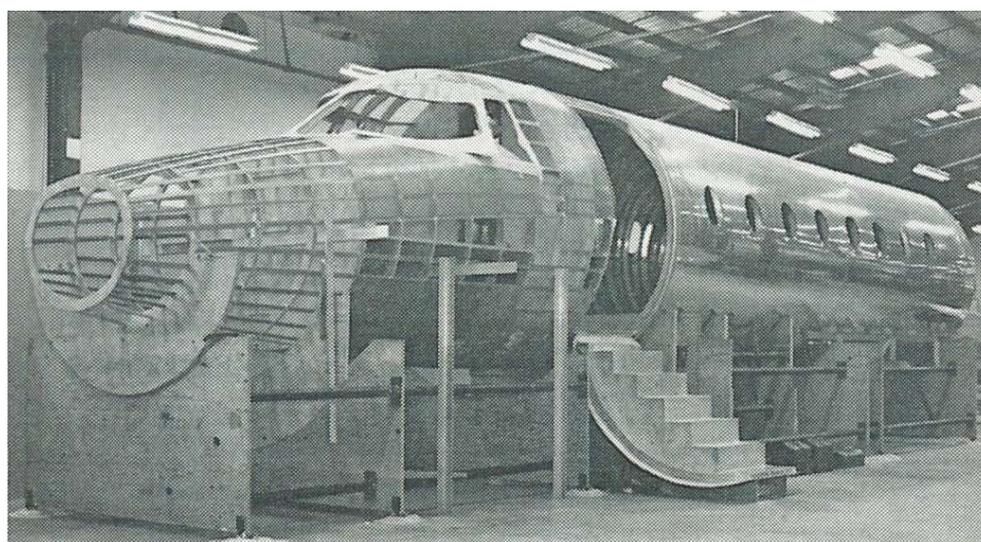
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60 Years Ago

This famous picture was taken of Clay Lacy and Danny Kaye 'at the controls' of the Model 40 Lear Liner mockup and being supervised by Bill Lear.



Clay Lacy, Bill Lear and Danny Kaye in Lear Liner Mockup



Lear Liner Mockup Nearing Completion

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On February 28, 1966 Bill Lear announces Danny Kaye as Vice President of the Lear Jet Corporation. Danny will maintain his residence in Los Angeles, California, and will participate actively in Lear Jet marketing programs on an international basis.

The Model 24 was certified on Saint Patrick’s Day, March 17, 1966. It was the very first airplane certified to the then new FAR Part 25. A new 1966 M24 cost \$649,000. That price included all electronics, custom interior, external paint and crew training!



1st Model 24 - 24-100 N427LJ

Bill Lear gains another title when the Governor of Nebraska confers upon him “Honorary Admiral” of the Nebraska Navy!



“Admiral” Bill Lear, Nebraska Governor

23-074 5A-DAC flies from Wichita, Kansas to Geneva, Switzerland covering the 6,000 miles in 11 hours and 25 minutes. The flight was made using the Lear Jet autopilot all way. No issues were encountered throughout the flight, just “gas and go”! The airplane was equipped with a Lear Stereo system so they were able to listen to beautiful music all the way.

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23-074 5A-DAC

Documents Needed

We need help locating a complete set of these documents to support the restoration of 23-003:

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

CLJF Merchandise

Watch this space for an announcement!!

Kansas Aviation Museum!

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/>

Midwest Single Source!

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, flight patches and stickers, etc.

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

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RECHARGE!

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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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