

Progress report, July 2026

How time flies! A short four years ago, on July 20, 2022, we made our trip to Bartow Executive Airport, Bartow, Florida, to do an inspection of 23-003 to see if she was restorable. Today 23-003 is in Wichita, Kansas within a few hundred feet south of the Lear Jet factory where she was built in 1964. CLJF now owns 23-003 and the restoration project is well along!



23-003 in Bartow, Florida July 20, 2022



23-003 in Wichita, Kansas Summer 2026

The latest work by the volunteers has been working on the removal of the aft cabin floor in order to proceed with the structural inspections of the fuselage. It is a slow process because of the large amount of sealant used between the floor and the surrounding structure that has to be manually cut loose before the floor can be removed.

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Aft Cabin Floor - (Looking Aft)

Also, all the parts removed from the airplane continue to be identified, inspected, and dispositioned for service, replacement or overhaul.

A big **THANK YOU** to all the volunteers! We greatly appreciate all that you do!

Donations

In June Richard Powell, a former Learjet employee, donated his toolbox to the CLJF to help with the restoration of 23-003. It is chocked full of electrical tools of all kinds! A very welcome donation! We will put these tools to good use! **Thank You**, Richard, for your donation!!

[It is with great sadness as we announce that Richard passed away on July 5, 2026.]



Donated Toolbox



Richard Powell

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Landing Gear Update

We wish to thank Doug Slovak of VSE Aviation for his support in the restoration of 23-003. He helped with our purchase the much-needed landing gear seal kits on July 29, 2026. These kits will be forwarded to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida to aid in their restoration of 23-003's three landing gear struts. **Thank you**, Doug for your support!



Doug Slovak

23-003 Needs New Tires

As the restoration of 23-003 progresses, we will need your help with acquiring various services, parts, bits and pieces. This month we are asking for a new set of tires. The only requirement is that all 4 main landing gear tires must be of the same part number. Do you have, or are willing to buy, a new nose tire or a set of 4 main landing gear tires that you could donate for 23-003? (*Remember* that the 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.)

Here are the needed Part numbers:

Nose Gear Tire

184F10-2

184F10-1

Main Gear Tires

185F03-3

185F03-5

178K23-5 (Michelin)

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Greenwood Collection Status

Great progress has been made on the very extensive Greenwood collection since it arrived in Wichita two years ago on July 12, 2024. It is being stored in a climate-controlled storage facility. In May of last year, we hired a professional archivist, Kayla Nelson, to go through the large number of boxes, file cabinets, pictures and miscellaneous 'stuff' and preserve the items relevant to Lear Jet. Her first priority was to separate the Lear Jet items from the collection, a huge task. Jim Greenwood was an aviation enthusiast and historian in the truest sense. Books, articles, photos, letters, speeches, research documents, historical items, round tubes with pictures, artwork, sketches, award plaques, framed pictures, etc. for all sorts of airplanes, pilots, aviation events, etc. Jim was also a prolific ghost writer for numerous authors and all of his research and documentation was kept in this collection. Twenty boxes of aviation, but not Lear Jet related, books were donated by CLJF to the Friends of the Wichita Public Library on November 6, 2025. Items that are related to other airplanes, ex. Beech, Cessna, etc., will be donated to the appropriate organizations. For the Lear Jet portion of the collection, we purchased specific archiving software which Kayla recommended and used to catalog each item as she preserved it in special archival paper and folders. This software allows us to not only see what is in the collection, but where it is located. Which box, file cabinet, drawer, and specific folder where each item is stored! Unfortunately for us, Kalya and her family had to move to the east coast before she was able to complete the preservation project. Although she had completed her agreement with us before her move, she has become a CLJF volunteer to help us continue the preservation work on the collection. **Thank you**, Kayla for all of your hard work sorting, organization and preserving our Lear Jet heritage!



Kayla Nelson

The pictures below show how Jim Greenwood left the collection and what it looked like after his daughter, Jeanne Kirk, and her husband, Tom, spent over a year straightening and inventorying it. Also, what it looked like after it was delivered to Wichita and now after Kayla's hard preservation work.

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Before Inventory in Tucson – July 28, 2022



After Inventory in Tucson – September 24, 2023



After Arrival in Wichita – July 12, 2024

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Tom and Jeanne Kirk



Preservation Boxes (behind Al Higdon, Kayla Nelson) – July 8, 2026



Donation to Friends of the Wichita Public Library

CLJF at Farnborough Airshow

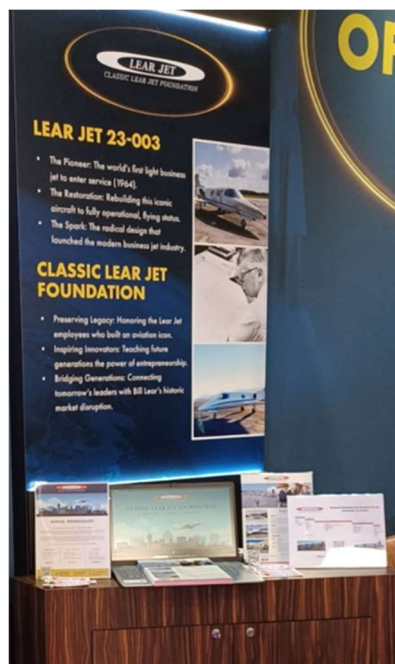
CLJF attended the Farnborough International Airshow July 20-24, 2026 with a sponsorship through the Greater Wichita Partnership (GWP). We had a CLJF display kiosk within the *Wichita, Air Capital of the World* booth consisting of a large poster, a laptop showing CLJF videos, several handouts describing our organization and the restoration status and key chain giveaways. Rick Rowe, Director of Public Relations, and Chris Marshall, Secretary, represented CLJF and made numerous contacts with people interested in our mission to restore and fly the first delivered Lear Jet, 23-003 N200Y. Among the numerous visitors to our kiosk were U.S.

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Senator Jerry Moran, Wichita City officials: Mayor Lily Wu, Dennis Marstall, Wichita City Manager, Jeff Blubaugh, Sedgwick County Commissioner, Ian Tompsett, Talent Director, and, Charles Bristow, VP Commercial Business, both at Envisage, Dr. Sheree Utash, President WSU Tech, and Judy Xie, CEO of Aero Future Canada.



GWP – Mayor Lily Wu, just left of center (yellow dress), Senator Jerry Moran, center (striped tie)



CLJF Kiosk



Rick Rowe, Mayor Lily Wu, Chris Marshall

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Rick Rowe, Judy Xie



Ian Tompsett, Chris Marshall

60 Years Ago

Empire State Airlines, a commuter carrier serving New York and Washington, D.C. became the *first* pure-jet commuter operation. Their airplane of choice: Lear Jet! Flying time from Elmira, New York to Washington, D.C. is about 35 minutes in their Lear Jet compared to one hour and 30 minutes in their former propeller driven airplane.

23-095 N366EJ lands at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina becoming the first jet airplane of any kind to land there! Note the Wright Brothers memorial in the background in the photo below.



23-095 N366EF

Lear Jet announces it is developing a 10-place stretched version of the successful 8-place Model 24 designated the Lear Jet "Transporter". It anticipates deliveries to start in early 1967. (It becomes know as the Lear Jet Model 25.)

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The 43-place Model 40 Lear Liner is on schedule for 1st flight in early fall 1967.

Lear Jet announces long range plans for a supersonic business jet, expected to be operational in the early 1970's.

George Peppard, star of the movie *The Blue Max* learned to fly for the movie. He recently received his Lear Jet type rating and set off in 23-081 N437LJ named "Lear Jet Flies The Blue Max", for a two-week, 20,000-mile trip promoting his film.



"Blue Max" with WWI Fokker Triplane



George Peppard in Lear Jet Pilot's Seat

Visitors, July 2026

CLJF board members and archivist Kayla Nelson met over lunch with Al Higdon, former Director of Public Relations at Learjet. During lunch we had many discussions about Al's experiences while at Learjet and his former Learjet boss, Jim Greenwood, and the huge aviation collection that Jim had amassed. This collection was donated to CLJF by Jim's daughter, Jeanne. (See article above). Al said that Jim never threw anything away! In fact, Al said that if Jim or his wife, Maxine, decided to throw something away, one of them had to make a copy of it first!

After lunch we took Al on a tour of the Greenwood collection. He was like a kid in a candy store. Looking at books, pictures, press releases, etc. that were carefully cataloged, preserved and neatly filed. He identified various celebrities, dignitaries, and VIPs in numerous photos and told stories about them and the events surrounding the photo. Al said that the tour took him

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back to 1965 again! As time quickly ran away, Al volunteered to come back again and help us identify more photos, manuscripts, awards, plaques, etc. in order to complete our description of each item in the Greenwood collection.



Ron Forshee, Kayla Nelson, Chris Marshall, Al Higdon, Bill Kinkaid



Kayla Nelson, Al Higdon Looking at Newsletters (L) & Draft of *Stormy Genius, The Life of Bill Lear* (R)

CLJF in the Media

AeroXplorer published an excellent article about CLJF and 23-003, check out this link:

https://aerexplorer.com/articles/inside-the-volunteer-effort-to-fly-the-first-lear-jet-again.php#google_vignette

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RECHARGE!

VOLUME 1

JULY 2026

NUMBER 38

Membership Program Announced!!

The Classic Lear Jet Foundation is excited to announce our annual membership program!!

You're Invited to Join the Lear jet Legacy

Dear Friend of Aviation,

Some aircraft are more than machines. They represent a moment in time — a bold idea, a new way of thinking, and the people who dared to make it happen.

The Classic Lear Jet Foundation is launching our new **Annual Membership Program**, giving aviation enthusiasts the opportunity to help preserve one of the most important chapters in business aviation history. Join **TODAY** at <https://classiclear.org/membership>

Your membership supports the restoration of **Lear Jet 23-003**, the first customer-delivered Lear Jet — an aircraft that helped define an industry and continues to inspire generations.

Membership levels:

- **Cabin Crew — \$50/year**
Your first step aboard the Lear Jet legacy.
- **First Officer — \$100/year**
A stronger role in preserving aviation history.
- **Captain — \$200/year**
A leadership-level commitment to protecting the story of innovation and achievement.

By becoming a member, you are helping us honor the engineers, pilots, entrepreneurs, and dreamers who made the Lear Jet possible.

Join us in celebrating the people, passion, innovation and entrepreneurship behind the Lear Jet story.

Become a member today and help restore **Lear Jet 23-003 — one historic aircraft, one unforgettable legacy**. Join **TODAY** at <https://classiclear.org/membership>

Check out the great membership perks for each membership level!



With appreciation,

Classic Lear Jet Foundation

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Preserving aviation history takes a community.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, every membership and purchase directly supports the preservation and restoration of historic Lear Jet 23-003 N200Y.

Wanted - A&P Mechanics

We have a real 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

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.

Restoration 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

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CLJF Merchandise

Introducing the All-New Classic Lear Jet Foundation Store

We're excited to announce the **completely redesigned Classic Lear Jet Foundation Online Store**. Check it out at: <https://store.classiclear.org>

While many of you have supported us through our previous online store, we've spent the last several months building an entirely new shopping experience from the ground up. The redesigned store features expanded product offerings, improved navigation, new mission collectibles, updated apparel, and exclusive items created specifically to support the Foundation's preservation efforts.

Most importantly, **100% of the profits from every purchase directly benefit the Classic Lear Jet Foundation**, a registered **501(c)(3) nonprofit organization**, and support the ongoing restoration of **Lear Jet 23-003 N200Y** — one of the most historically significant Lear Jets ever built.

What's New?

- Completely redesigned online shopping experience
- New apparel collections for men, women, and youth
- Exclusive Century Mission and Polar Mission merchandise
- Limited-edition flown mission patches with certificates of authenticity
- New drinkware, accessories, office items, and collectibles
- Expanded selection of aviation-themed gifts and memorabilia
- More ways than ever to support the restoration of Lear Jet 23-003

Whether you're a pilot, aviation enthusiast, collector, or longtime supporter of the Lear Jet legacy, every purchase helps preserve an important chapter of aviation history.

From commemorative mission patches and challenge coins to apparel, drinkware, books, and collectibles, each item in the store has been selected to celebrate the remarkable history of Lear Jet 23-003 N200Y while helping fund its future preservation.

Visit the store, explore the new collection, and help us continue the restoration of **Lear Jet 23-003 N200Y**. <https://store.classiclear.org>



Thank you for your continued support of the Classic Lear Jet Foundation and for helping us preserve the innovation, craftsmanship, and pioneering spirit that made the Lear Jet an aviation icon.

The Classic Lear Jet Foundation - Aviation History Worth Preserving

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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/>

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

Classic Lear Jet Foundation – Contact Info

Website: <https://classiclear.org>



Facebook: Classic Lear Jet Foundation

e-mail: info@Classiclear.org

Linkedin: Classic Lear Jet Foundation

Membership: <https://classiclear.org/membership>



Store: <https://store.classiclear.org>



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Support the Mission. Preserve the Legacy

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