



LEAR JET

CLASSIC LEAR JET FOUNDATION

RECHARGE!

VOLUME 1

APRIL 2023

NUMBER 1

WELCOME!

Welcome to the inaugural addition of recharge, the semi-official newsletter of the Classic Lear Jet Foundation. 60 years ago, this month the original CHARGE magazine was issued at Lear Jet Industries as the first Lear Jet 23-001 was being designed and built So RECHARGE seems appropriate for our efforts to get the first delivered Lear Jet 23-003 restored and back into the air again. We will provide progress reports on the project, tell you a bit about our mission, who we are and provide some historical tidbits along with upcoming events.



Almost 60 years ago the first purpose-built business jet was delivered to a customer. This risky venture was the result of one man's vision, it changed Business Aviation forever, created an industry and created an aviation icon in the process.

We at the Classic Lear Jet Foundation also share that vision. We intend to ACQUIRE the first Learjet ever delivered, 23-003, return her to Wichita Kansas where she was built, RESTORE her, and FLY her as a living flight history program.

We are passionate about Lear Jet history including this aircraft and the people that built it. The original Lear Jet 23 revolutionized business and created a cultural phenomenon that lives on today. It affected many lives including those of entertainers, politicians, astronauts & athletes. Its significance parallels many other "firsts" in the world. We intend to capture this essence and pass it on before it is lost to the ages.



Lear Jet 23-003 was the first of over 3000 Lear Jet (later Learjet) aircraft of many models built before production ceased in early 2022. Sadly, the original Model 23 is all but extinct less several examples in Museums and storage. The public today cannot experience an operational example nor ride in one. Our mission is to change that.

The Classic Lear Jet foundation is a not-for-profit corporation founded and operated by past, retired and current Learjet employees. We have over 240 years of Lear Jet experience including engineering, maintenance, quality, certification, and flight operations. We are the right people to successfully complete this project and then preserve the Lear Jet story for generations to come.

We would like to hear from you, so please check us out at classiclear.org and on Facebook.

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.



Our story so far.....

In February 2022 Learjet Historian Richard Kovich received a call from the owner of Lear Jet 23-003 offering the aircraft for sale. Dick along with Learjet employee Bill Kinkaid began studying what it would take to return the aircraft to Wichita Kansas. The city where it was built and the city where it belongs. Several social media posts were made to determine if there was sufficient interest in returning the airplane back to Wichita. The responses were very positive.

With the assistance of long time Learjet Ambassador Al Higdon, a discussion about fundraising with the management of the B-29 Superfortress DOC occurred in June 2022. That meeting helped to clarify the goals of the project and the financial plan to get there.

A proposed board of directors were invited to a meeting on July 7, 2022, at Global Aviation Technologies on Wichita's Eisenhower National Airport. These proposed directors were selected based upon their areas of discipline (Maintenance, Engineering, Marketing, Quality, Airworthiness, Etc.) and their current association with the Wichita Aerospace industry. An outline of the project was presented to the attendees of the meeting and a unanimous agreement to go forward was made.

The following week, thru a generous transportation offering by local businessman Jim Lee of Lee Aerospace, the directors traveled to Bartow Executive airport in central Florida to inspect the aircraft. The aircraft was surprising complete and even passed a power on check with no smoke! However, it wasn't airworthy, some corrosion was noted but that was to be expected, the aircraft hadn't flown in over 23 years. Several weeks later a second trip to Tullahoma, Tennessee occurred to negotiate with the owner and review the aircraft logbooks. This second trip was also sponsored by Jim Lee of Lee Aerospace.

In September the directors officially adopted the name "Classic Lear Jet Foundation" and filed the articles of incorporation with the State of Kansas as a not-for-profit corporation. That approval was received in October. Also noteworthy was receiving the official approval from Bombardier to use the original corporate logo in association with our foundation.

Just after Thanksgiving we made our official filing with the IRS to gain 501 (c) (3) not for profit status. A non-binding purchase agreement was put in place to get the aircraft out of Florida and into a safe indoor environment. Since we couldn't fly the aircraft back to Wichita work was started on a ground transportation plan.

In early January we received our full IRS 501 (c) (3) not for profit approval. This was our first major achievement and it allowed us to start our fund-raising activities for the foundation.

Then in February we achieved our second major goal of returning the aircraft to Wichita including our first media events. This goal was achieved by several generous in-kind donations, most notably, Global Jet Care, International Turbines Industries and Patton Trucking.



RECHARGE!

VOLUME 1

APRIL 2023

NUMBER 1

A Special thank you to those companies that contributed to moving the aircraft:



Upcoming Events:

Classic Lear Jet Foundation Benefit Car wash:

June 4th at Twin Peaks east location. Rain date June 11th.

June 18th at Twin Peaks west location. Rain date June 25th.

Lear Jet 23 First Flight 60th Anniversary Celebration October 7th



Under Construction.....

If you have been to classiclear.org you have no doubt noticed that we have fallen a bit behind in our efforts to make it a world class web site. Please bear with us as we continue to build and refine the site.

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.

A recent LinkedIn post indicated the Lear Jet 23 was a flying fuel emergency, these two didn't get the memo:



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.