

## Progress report, September 2023.

On September 13 Lear Jet 23-003 was used as the backdrop for the Learjet Customer Advisory Council evening social dinner. Classic Lear Jet Foundation officers were present to show our aircraft and answer their numerous questions. The following day we gave a full presentation of our project to the numerous Learjet operators and Bombardier officials that were present.



We thank Bombardier for the opportunity to showcase our project in front of this audience.

As far as progress on the aircraft itself we are continuing to secure our home for the restoration. This effort is coming along quite well and hope to have an announcement in the fall. We have received the aircraft log books and are performing the mandatory airworthiness reviews prior to the start of restoration.

The Classic Lear Jet Foundation and its volunteers are very busy organizing our Lear Jet First Flight 60th anniversary events. We promise a once in a lifetime event for anyone interested in aviation history or the Learjet brand. We have confirmed several aircraft that will be on display and hope to have both the first and last delivered Lear jets present. Dozens of Learjet display models will be shown including those of production aircraft, rare engineering development proposals and a few others that will be a surprise. A slide show of over 700 Learjet photographs and videos will set the background for this display. We will have some very rare items and documents on display including original advertising portfolios and world record certifications. Additionally, we will have the 1949 Collier trophy awarded to William P. Lear for the development of the jet autopilot. And a few more surprises too! These displays will be present at both events.

The day open house begins at 10:00 and lasts until 3:00. You can check out 23-003 in person, talk with members of the foundation, and probably see an old work mate or two, food trucks will be present for meals.

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The evening dinner event begins at 6:00 and lasts until 9:00. Enjoy dinner and drinks with us as we take a trip down Learjet memory lane with our featured speakers:

Al Higdon, started at Lear Jet in 1964 within the public relations department. His efforts made Learjet a household name.

Brian Barents, President, and CEO of Learjet from 1989 to 1996. Brian was responsible for the renaissance of Learjet. Under Brian's leadership Learjet was sold from Integrated Resources to Bombardier and the Learjet 31A, 45 & 60 were launched.

Chuck Cox, Chairman of Northern Jet, one of the largest jet charter operators in the United States. In March of 2022 Chuck took delivery of Learjet 45-609, the last Learjet built.

We hope to see you there! Seating is limited for this event and is selling out quickly.

## Meet board member Chris Marshall

Chris is a jack of all trades and serves as the Classic Lear Jet Foundations secretary....

My earliest aviation memory is when I was 4 or 5 years old. I was at the Emporia Kansas Airport with my dad when I saw a Cessna 172 start up outside the hangar. During grade school I read a book titled Sabre Jet Ace about Korean War Ace Joseph McConnell. From reading that book, I developed a liking for the F-86 Sabre fighter jet, and to this day, think it is the most beautiful military aircraft ever. It wasn't until shortly after high school that I got my first ride in an airplane. It was a night-time ride in a T-28 trainer that included a barrel roll! My exposure to aviation was pretty limited after that until my first airline trip in a Lockheed L-1011 jumbo jet in 1984. I recall being impressed with the feeling of acceleration on take-off.

My educational interests brought me to Wichita in 1986. A couple of years later I was able to get a job at Learjet in the Quality Assurance department. During my first stay at Learjet, I started ground school in a flying club, but unfortunately, the club's leased airplane was damaged in a windstorm. But I was lucky enough to get a ride in Alan Turner's Piper Colt that he kept at a grass strip outside of Derby. While at another aviation company in Wichita, I was able to obtain my pilot's license in 2005. Shortly after, I bought my first aircraft, a Mooney M20F. It was a simple, reliable airplane and I was able to obtain an instrument rating while owning it. After several years, I got the itch for something bigger & faster. After searching for a few years, I bought my current Cessna 421 which I have owned and flown for 10 years.

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Starting in 2011, I worked at Learjet again on the Model 85 program. After its unfortunate demise in 2015, I joined an avionics manufacturer in Iowa for a short time, then returned to Kansas to work for Garmin, my current employer.

In July of 2021, I attended the log-book signing in Wichita for the last Learjet to be built. I added my e-mail address to a list to be kept informed of Learjet happenings. That action led to me being on the recipient list of an e-mail sent June 10 of 2022, asking anyone interested in saving 23-003 to respond. I did, and just 15 months later, I am now a board member and officer in the nonprofit organization (Classic Lear Jet Foundation!) dedicated to restoring Lear Jet 23-003 to flying condition and preserving the history and legacy of that great company and aircraft brand.

I guess things have moved so fast because it's a Lear Jet!!

## Volunteer Spotlight: Julie Oseguera

I have a genuine passion for volunteering. I am passionate about being in the position to help others, especially when I can utilize my skills to make a difference. I believe in the Classic Lear Jet Mission and for me, it has sentimental value with myself, my parents, husband and my siblings that have contributed and supported the building of Learjet aircraft.

My Dad, Whitey Schock, worked in the Cabinet shop for about 30 years as a supervisor. My Mom, Jackie Spalding started in Interiors in the '70's and then worked in Methods scheduling. She also worked the front desk in Customer Service on the weekends. Her time at Learjet was about 35 years. My brother, Charlie Schock, Jr., still works at Bombardier in Inspection. My husband Jorge a flight test mechanic is also currently employed at Bombardier.

## Coming Events

October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Classic Learjet Foundation open house.

October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM Learjet 60th anniversary celebration

## Did you miss us in the media?

We thank AIN for an excellent article that ran this month:

<https://www.ainonline.com/aviation-news/business-aviation/2023-09-05/bringing-lear-003-back-flight>

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LEAR JET

CLASSIC LEAR JET FOUNDATION

RECHARGE!

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LEAR JET

CLASSIC LEAR JET FOUNDATION

www.classiclear.org

CELEBRATES

60 Years  
OF FLIGHT

OCTOBER 7, 2023

Starting at 10am!

Bombardier Building 14  
One Learjet Way, Wichita, KS 67209

Immerse yourself in the rich history and legacy of the Lear Jet, which revolutionized the aviation industry!

Celebrate the 60th anniversary of the first flight of Lear Jet 23-001! See 23-003 the first purpose-built business jet ever delivered to a customer.

Lear Jet memorabilia, photographs, rare artifacts, food trucks, Silent Auction and more!

**SILENT AUCTION**

<https://app.galabid.com/firstflightevent/>

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

Al Higdon, former Lear Jet Manager of Information Services and Director of Public Relations from 1964-1971

Brian Barents, CEO of Learjet from 1989-1996

Chuck Cox, Chairman of Northern Jet

10:00am - 3:00pm - Mingle / Food Trucks  
(Open To Public, Food For Purchase)

6:00pm - 9:00pm - Cocktails / Dinner / Program  
(Business Casual Event, Ticket Only)

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW!!**

Scan me!



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