

Progress report, October 2023.

Saturday October 7th was a very special day for the Classic Lear Jet Foundation when we held the 60th anniversary celebration for the first flight of the first Learjet. Over 500 people visited us that day as we paid tribute to the Learjet legacy. The interaction of Learjet employees, owners, operators, and enthusiasts together with the memorabilia and aircraft on display truly made this a once in a lifetime event. We wish to thank our main sponsors Bombardier and Lee Aerospace for supporting us in making this happen.

We also wish to thank the following supporters:

Mr. Chuck Cox and Northern Jet for speaking about what Learjet ownership means to his business's bottom line and bringing the last Learjet to the event.

Mr. Brian Barents for speaking about the middle years of Learjet.

Mr. Al Higdon for speaking about the early years of Lear Jet.

Mr. Chris Franks for volunteering to emcee the event.

Mr. Clay Lacy for allowing us to display his personal aircraft.

Mr. Lynn Krogh of International Jet for coordinating the display of a beautiful Model 55.

Mr. Bart Gray of Global Jet care for bring their Model 35 critical care air ambulance.

Ms. Brenda Lear for providing the Collier Trophy for display.

Additional thanks to all that traveled to attend this event including and a shout out to the numerous volunteers without which the event would not have happened.



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RECHARGE!

VOLUME 1

OCTOBER 2023

NUMBER 7



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A very generous donation



We are very pleased to announce that we have received a very generous donation of Lear Jet historical artifacts from the estate of Mr. Jim Greenwood. Jim was the director of public relations at Lear Jet starting in 1964 and was largely responsible for the overwhelming exposure of the Lear Jet to the public, making the aircraft a commonly recognized brand, even today. Jim's daughter and son in law – Jeanne and Tom Kirk have gifted a large collection of Learjet historical documentation, photography, films, videos, models, plaques & awards. These items are invaluable in supporting the foundation's historical purpose. Prior to Jim's position at Lear Jet, he was manager of public relations at Beech Aircraft. In 1970 Jim left Learjet and was the director of public affairs for the Federal Aviation Administration until 1973, he later returned to Learjet as senior vice president of corporate affairs until his retirement in 1985. Jim was an internationally recognized spokesman for aviation for over 40 years, was a U.S. Navy veteran, journalist, parachutist, pilot and has been inducted into both the Arizona and Kansas aviation halls of fame.

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Meet board member Rick Rowe

Rick is the foundation's Public Relations director.



After spending eight years in the United States Navy, I returned to the Wichita area in August of 1977. I went to work at Cessna as a squawk worker and sheet metal assembler. While working there, from time to time I saw a very sleek, fast airplane with turned-up wing tips takeoff from the west side of the airport. I soon learned that it was a Learjet model 28 and the turned-up wing tips were called winglets. I was a private pilot at the time and wondered what it would be like to fly something like that.

I worked at Cessna until mid-1984 when I was caught in a lay off. At that point I went to work at Boeing as a sheet metal assembler. I worked there until early 1987 when I took a job at yet another airplane company, Beech Aircraft, as a Technical Writer where I was assigned to the maintenance manual group. That job lasted until August of 1988 when I was caught in yet

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another layoff. I thought the world had come to an end.

In October of 1988 I got a call from a colleague who had also been laid off in August who told me that Learjet was looking for Technical Writers. So, I applied and got hired at Learjet in late October 1988. I was assigned to work on Airplane Flight Manuals and Pilot Manuals. That job allowed me to get acquainted with some of the engineering test pilots, production test pilots and marketing demonstration pilots. After I had been there about two years I met Candy Zimmerman from the Marketing Department, some of you may know her as Candy Rowe now. Candy introduced me to the Director of the Marketing Demonstration Department. I told him of my desire to learn to fly Learjets. He was very gracious and gave me advice on how I should proceed and to stay in touch.

I followed his advice and on March 29, 1993, I was given the opportunity to get qualified as Second in Command in a Learjet 31A by the head of Production Flight Test. They needed help ferrying the airplane to Tucson for completion and I was happy to oblige. Three days later I got to fly with a demo pilot in 35A-676. It just kept getting better. In late April I got to go with the Director of the Marketing demonstration team to Belfast, Northern Ireland to ferry a Learjet 31A back to Wichita. I continued to fly with the marketing pilots regularly thanks to my boss in Tech Pubs allowing me the time off.

A new Director for the demonstration team had come on board in the summer of 1994. I had met him once before when I was still in Tech Pubs. He allowed me to continue with the demo team on a part time basis and in October he hired me full time into the Marketing Demonstration Department as a demo pilot. As they say, the rest is history.

So, the world didn't come to an end. My time at Learjet was a dream come true. With a lot of help and great mentors I learned what it would be like to fly a Learjet. Now I'm proud to be a part of the Classic Lear Jet Foundation helping to keep the story alive of the jet that started the business jet industry.

Volunteer Spotlight: Patty Way



I came to Learjet after 18 years as a buyer for JC Penney. In 1996 I joined BAS Marketing and helped do the promotional items for all the M & O's and supplied both Wichita and Tucson Specialty Stores with merchandise. We started doing \$600,000.00 a year and after 3 ½ I had both stores up to a million.

I wanted to be a parts buyer and joined Customer Service for more opportunity. It gave me a chance to learn about parts on the aircraft and deal with inspections. It was interesting and there were lots of challenges which I did for 5 years. From my contract knowledge I was asked to join a team called vendor recovery for collecting labor for parts that failed under warranty. This was a brand-new start up group and there were three of us working the Learjet, Challenger, and Global Express aircraft. We all enjoyed our job and the challenges that it brought. This little group managed to bring back to the company over 3 million dollars. It gave me more opportunity to learn about parts on the aircraft and how things worked. I loved coming to work every day and seeing the aircraft in Building 7 and always seeing new ones come in. The assembly line to me was a fascinating place to watch. I always enjoyed the stories of what was and where Learjet came from.

I feel proud to be part of a group wanting to keep the name alive for all to see. This is so exciting to watch it start and I am very excited to watch the progress.



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Did you miss us in the media?

We thank the Wichita Eagle for an excellent article that was online and on the front page of the October 1st Edition.

<https://www.kansas.com/news/local/article279757114.html>

Thank You!

Thank You to the following individuals, organizations, and companies for the donated services and items for our successful silent auction venue:

Airport Steakhouse, Hutchinson, Ks
Aviation Academy, Wichita, Ks
Central Wine and Spirits, Wichita, Ks
Chris Marshall
Commemorative Air Force, Jayhawk Wing, Wichita, Ks
Cosmosphere, Hutchinson, Ks
Courtesy Cleaners, Wichita, Ks
Dan DeMott
Exploration Place, Wichita, Ks
Frontiers of Flight Museum, Dallas, Tx
Gary Park
Integrated Components Inc., Wichita, Ks
Jay Thomas
Jim Greenwood Estate
Joel Weber
Josh Shorter
Kansas Aviation Museum, Wichita, Ks
Kiril Jakimovski
Marge Belluomo
Million Air, Dallas Tx
Mrs. Brenda Lear
Mrs. Norma Carlson
Reflection Ridge Golf Club, Wichita, Ks
Rod Hctor
Ron Forshee
Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita, Ks
Starbucks, Wichita, Ks
Stearman Bar and Grill, Benton, Ks
Top Golf, Wichita, Ks
Twin Peaks West, Wichita, Ks
Wichita Brewing Co., Wichita, Ks
William Kinkaid

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