



RECHARGE!

VOLUME 1

NOVEMBER 2023

NUMBER 8

Progress report, November 2023.

Hello and a belated Happy Thanksgiving!! We hope that your holiday was enjoyable! The Classic Lear Jet Foundation would like to update you all on the latest status of the 23-003 restoration project. Since we paid the airplane off a couple months ago, we have been working hard on securing a lease agreement on a facility where the restoration work will be accomplished. This process will take some time to put in place, as there are a lot of details and legalities to address. We believe that by year's end we should be close to reaching an agreement which will allow us to get the airplane in place and begin with the teardown and start working with our volunteers. We also have been working hard on evaluating the aircraft and maintenance records in support of planning the first phases and necessities of the project. We are very excited to start the teardown and to work with all the volunteers who are anxious to help. Get ready to roll your sleeves up soon!

All of you passionate Lear Jet volunteers be sure to go to our Classic Lear Jet Foundation website, <https://classiclear.org/support/>, or use the QR code below, and click on the "Volunteer" box, then scroll down and add your contact info. In the "Message" section, don't forget to include your areas of experience and expertise, include any certifications, ratings, etc. Also, we will need many general and passionate volunteers to assist others and perform miscellaneous projects around the airplane and hangar, so include your area(s) of interest. We will use this list to contact the appropriate volunteers as we need them in various areas (ex. Interior removal, control surface removal, etc.).

Remember that 23-003 will be made airworthy!! This *requires* that all work performed be accomplished per the applicable regulations, processes, inspections and standards.

Classic Lear Jet Foundation

Website: <https://classiclear.org>



Scan QR code:

Facebook: Classic Lear Jet Foundation

e-mail: info@Classiclear.org

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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. Donate at <https://classiclear.org>

Meet board member Jay Thomas



I have been fascinated with planes and aviation since I was a very young boy. During World War II, my brother and I saw and heard hundreds of US Army Air Corp training planes flying in formation above. This was such an impactful and intriguing experience for me.

During the war, my family would drive to the Wichita Air Terminal to pick up my uncle who would fly in from his Navy Base to Wichita to visit family. We would usually get to watch him taxi in and park his aircraft. My uncle would spend the night with our family and share stories and information about his activities as a World War II Naval Flight Instructor Pilot. I was extremely impressed and intrigued with his stories and his navy attire and status as a pilot. I viewed my uncle as a hero.

Yet another impactful experience for me when I was around 8-12 years old was from a gentleman, who worked with my father after World War II. He was a Fighter Pilot in the Army Air Corp during the war and would share his flight stories with me and invite me and my brother out to the Wichita Terminal and allow us to climb into the cockpit of his P51 Mustang aircraft after he landed. He would explain all about the plane, how it flew and its control systems. I was completely mesmerized by being able to sit in a fighter plane and have been obsessed with aircraft ever since that time. It was these experiences which greatly inspired me to enter the U.S. Navy upon graduation from high school in 1956.

I served 4 years Active Duty in the U.S. Navy. My first Naval assignment following boot camp was in Corpus Christi in the Naval Flight Test Detachment of the Overhaul and Repair



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Department for 7-8 months while awaiting an opening in the Naval Aviation Electrical and Electronics Schools in Norman, Oklahoma and Memphis, Tennessee. Upon completion of the Electronics training program, I was assigned to the VP45 Naval Patrol Squadron at the Naval Operational Base in Bermuda for 2½ years. While in Bermuda I was assigned to an award winning P5M Anti-Submarine Flying Boat (Sea Plane) flight crew. The flight crew received the Crew of the Month Award for 4 consecutive months, a record which still stands today. While with my flight crew, I accrued approximately 1,500-2,000 flight hours adding to my love of airplanes and flying.

Upon returning home to Wichita from the Navy in 1960, I entered Wichita University and worked various part-time jobs until I began working at Boeing in 1961. While at Boeing I first worked as a Carpenter and then transferred to Tool Design Engineering. While working full-time at Boeing, I also attended Wichita University.

I worked at Boeing from 1961 to 1968 when I was laid off. However, the day after I was laid off, I was hired into the Engineering Department at Lear Jet. I remained at Lear Jet until I was laid off again in 1970 at which time I finished my Teaching Degree in 1970. I went to work at Goddard High School as a Shop Teacher for approximately 5½ years. While teaching at Goddard High School, I worked 2 summers at Lear Jet as well. I then resumed working full-time at Lear Jet in 1976 in the Liaison Engineering group, Material and Processing Engineering group, and/or in the Engineering Design Incorporation group. I remained at Learjet full time until I retired in 2000. However, I continued to contract with Lear Jet part-time for 10 more years until approximately 2010. I worked for a total of over 37 years at Lear Jet. Combined with my time of employment at Boeing, I have worked in the aircraft industry for a total of 45 years.

I have also been involved in other aviation programs. I co-founded the Patron Four Five Reunion Association which I began working on in 1987. We held our first reunion in 1990 in Pensacola with 176 shipmates attending. This association continues to grow strong and hold reunions every two years. We currently have 500+ members.

I also participated in a program to refurbish the Wichita Air Terminal. A friend at Lear Jet contacted me to be a part of the Lear Jet group whose responsibility was to design, manufacture and install the railing around the Wichita Air Terminal mezzanine.

Due to my love of aviation and flying, when I was contacted and asked to join the Classic Lear Jet Foundation Board in 2022 to restore the world's first purpose designed Business Jet aircraft, I was incredibly honored and am excited to be a part of this group. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I remain very busy with this project towards our goal of restoring this historic aircraft.

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. Donate at <https://classiclear.org>

Looking for Christmas Gifts?

Check out the CLJF merchandise at The Aviator's Attic, located at Yingling Aviation! They have all of the CLJF items for sale; caps, t-shirts, polos, sweatshirts, jackets, cups, tumblers, etc.

Also, our 60th Anniversary, unique and beautiful, CLJF Challenge Coin! Front and back:



Front



Back

Remember that your purchase not only will make someone happy, it will also support the restoration of 23-003!!

Visit The Aviator's Attic at 2010 South Airport Road, Wichita KS or call 316-946-3246. (Sorry, online sales not available at this time, but coming soon.)

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