



RECHARGE!

VOLUME 1

DECEMBER 2023

NUMBER 9

MERRY CHRISTMAS **and** **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

2023 - WOW WHAT A YEAR!!

Briefly....In early January we made our first payment on 23-003! Per the purchase contract we put \$2,500 earnest money into an escrow account. February was packed full of events....In December 2022, 23-003 sustained some rudder damage at the hands of hurricane Ian so the owner, Chris Rounds, agreed to allow us to take possession of 23-003, disassemble and ship her to Wichita where we would store her safely indoors, out of the weather, until we could make the final payment. In mid-February, we obtained the original registration number "N200Y" for 23-003 that she wore at her delivery October 13, 1964. The next day, three members of our Board of Directors went to Bartow, FL and, along with several companies who provided in-kind donations of people and equipment, disassembled 23-003 for her trip back home to Wichita. A week later, 23-003 was placed in the exact same place on the ramp in front of building 2 where she stood when delivered in 1964. 24 hours later, CLJF sponsored a 'Welcome Home' event, introducing 23-003 and the CLJF for the first time to the media and visitors. In mid-March we received a very large donation from Brenda Lear, widow of Bill Lear, Jr., to kickoff our first major fundraising project. In April we made a payment of \$15,000 which released the engine log books so overhaul of the engines could begin at International Turbine Industries (ITI). May saw 23-003's fuselage moved from temporary storage into Bombardier Learjet's building 14, the former Learjet Delivery Center. The wing would follow in September. June started with a CLJF booth at the Wichita River Festival's STEM event, followed by two car wash fundraisers. Also in June, the agreement with Bombardier to use part of building 14 to store 23-003 while awaiting our final purchase, was formalized. July saw the CLJF selected as the recipient for the "Wins for Kansas" award of \$500. Primary Acquisition Sponsors Clay Lacy and Lynn Krogh made major donations in mid-July sufficient to 'put us over the top' to allow us to complete the financial acquisition of 23-003. On August 10th CLJF officially owned 23-003! The airplane logbooks arrived in mid-August and their in-depth review started. On October 7th CLJF hosted an Open House and Dinner events to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the first flight of 23-001, the first Learjet. During these events, 45-609, the last Learjet delivered, was parked just outside of the hangar door where 23-003, the first Lear Jet delivered, is being stored. By 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. Donate at <https://classiclear.org>

end of November the logbook review was completed and a list of required inspections was prepared. In early December CLJF received the Learjet Data License which will allow us to access the necessary drawings, etc. required for our restoration. . A detailed Inspection/restoration plan is in work and a list of volunteers is being assembled. Hopefully, by the time you read this we will have finalized the lease on a building where the restoration will take place. Stay tuned (and cross your fingers!!)



Bill Kinkaid applying original registration number “N200Y” to the tail of 23-003

Around The World Flight to Benefit CLJF

One of our biggest donors, Global Jet Care, based in Brooksville, Florida is planning a flight to circumnavigate the globe to set a new world record in their Learjet model 36A. Global Jet Care is an air ambulance company who operates a fleet of Learjets worldwide. They're doing the flight on behalf of Classic Lear Jet Foundation as a fundraiser for the restoration of Lear Jet 23-003.

The Global Jet Care crew Bart Gray, Joshua Podlich, John Bone, Kirby Ezelle and official witness and CLJF board member Joel Weber plan to depart Wichita flying westbound on April 4, 2024 and return to Wichita on April 6, 2024. The westbound flight into the wind will make stops in California, Hawaii, the Marshall Islands, Palau, Thailand, Pakistan, Egypt, Italy, Portugal and Canada. The arrival back in Wichita on April 6th will coincide with the 100th anniversary of the start of the first ever circumnavigation of the world in an airplane by the U.S. Army Air Service in 1924. The U.S. Army Air Service flight departed Seattle, Washington, and completed the journey 175 days later after making 74 stops. The Global Jet Care Flight in a Learjet model 36A will take approximately 54 hours and 30 minutes to complete.

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>



There will be numerous opportunities to make donations and sponsor portions of the flight to generate funds for the restoration of Lear Jet 23-003. For more information contact us at our email info@ClassicLear.org and watch our LinkedIn and Facebook pages in addition to our website at <https://classiclear.org/>



Meet board member Tim Walker



Life is funny and sometimes it's hard to explain or understand everything you experience, but one thing for sure, Learjet means family. My Learjet career started in 1992 after getting laid off from Boeing as a machinist and the only job I could get was in the "hell hole" in Building 9 for half the Boeing pay. I kept wondering how long this would last before getting called back to Boeing and picking back up where I left off. But at Learjet the Models 35 and 31A were coming down one line and the new Model 60 down the other, we were working a lot of overtime and it kind of made up for the wage difference, plus I was now working day shift where at Boeing it was always second or third, I was enjoying being back in the land of the living. When the recall time came, I stayed at Learjet realizing there were more opportunities for advancement in this small company than I would ever see at Boeing, plus I made some good friends.

So fast forward 20 plus years and I look back at all the different positions I held, Sheet Metal Assembler, Machinist, SOS Shop, Leadman, Planning, Methods Scheduling, Customer Support Engineering, and ending with Supervision. This Learjet Family took me places I never dreamed

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>



RECHARGE!

VOLUME 1

DECEMBER 2023

NUMBER 9

of, and I am forever grateful for the education, fond memories, and the people that believed in me sometimes more than I did.

When I was asked to join the Classic Lear Jet Foundation, there was no hesitation and after a very quick yes, the next thing I know I am volunteering to be the Treasurer. To be part of this historic project in the early stages is exciting as I get to use all the tools this family taught me to make sure we get it right. If you ever study the life of Bill Lear, you will find he didn't need to create this beautiful plane and he didn't need the money, I believe it came down to one my favorite Bill quotes; "They said I'd never build it, that if I built it, it wouldn't fly; that if it flew, I couldn't sell it. Well, I did, and it did, and I could". The Classic Lear Jet Foundation has the same resolve and with the team we have assembled to restore and put this iconic aircraft back in the skies where she belongs, no one is telling us this can't be done!

Volunteer Spotlight: Jim Lee



Jim, a native of Wichita, epitomizes the spirit of entrepreneurship that the Air Capital of the World is renowned for. Aviation has always been Jim Lee's passion, from attending Spartan College of Aeronautics where he earned his A&P license, to his early days at Cessna to his family's locally owned aircraft parts distribution company, Lee Products. Jim launched his ambitious adventure in 1989 when he founded Lee Aerospace, building cabin windows for Boeing. Jim and his group swiftly expanded Lee Aerospace's window and windshield manufacturing to other aviation platforms including Learjet.

After more than 30 years, Lee Aerospace has progressed into composite and aerostructure manufacturing, and evolved his aviation window business into complex heated windshields using state of the art technology. Lee Aerospace also has an FAA Repair Station that can repair, evaluate, and install aircraft windows and windshields all over the world. Jim now has the chance to share his charitable side and explore other hobbies thanks to his prosperity.

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>



Jim has been a supporter of the Classic Lear Jet Foundation from the beginning. Lee Aerospace provided transportation for the Classic Lear Jet Foundation on several occasions in his Cessna Conquest 441 and Cessna Citation XL for the purpose of evaluating Lear 23-003, negotiating the sales contract for 23-003, and retrieving all the maintenance records for 23-003. Lee Aerospace also provided in-door storage for 23-003 while permanent storage was being arranged. Lee Aerospace looks forward to building new windshields and cabin windows for 23-003, offering breathtaking views to passengers and pilots when 23-003 takes off again.

While Jim can be found volunteering at local nonprofits, in his free time Jim is also passionate about flying and is a multi-engine instrument-rated pilot with over 5,800 hours. Alongside flying Jim has a strong affinity for performance boats, both racing and pleasure. When he's not flying or boating, he can be found back in his roots, working on his ranch in the beautiful Flint Hills or spending time with his family.



Looking for Year-End Charitable Donations?

Please consider the Classic Lear Jet Foundation. Your donation will help us restore and fly the very first Lear Jet delivered.

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.

For more information see our website: <https://classiclear.org/>

CLJF Merchandise is now on-line!

All of the Classic Lear Jet swag merchandise is now available on-line through Aviator's Attic!

Check it out . . .

<https://aviatorsattic.com/product-category/aviation-fun-stuff/classic-lear-jet-merchandise/>

You can also purchase these items in-person at The Aviator's Attic at 2010 South Airport Road, Wichita, KS or call 316-946-3246.

Remember that your purchase supports the restoration of 23-003!!

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>