

Lance A. Neibauer

Designer / founder, *Lancair Aircraft Companies*

Lance is the company founder and designer of the Lancair line of aircraft. Lance began his career as a graphic designer having received a BFA degree (major in Graphic Design, minor in Photography) from Michigan State University in 1971. With a strong family background in aviation (Meyers Aircraft), Lance was drawn into aviation in the late 70's when composite structures began to appear. The marriage of aviation and art is apparent in the sculptured lines of all Lancair aircraft. For several months in 1994, the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art displayed a Lancair 320 in their lobby as a design work of art.

His first aircraft, the Lancair 200 was test flown on June 26, 1984 in Chino, CA. The first version was heavily modified and the resultant "200" (now on display in the EAA Aviation Museum) again flew in December of that year. With that success, Lance developed more and more advanced models of the Lancair including the Lancair 235, Lancair 320, Lancair IV, Lancair IV-P (the first and only pressurized kit plane), Lancair 360-MK2, Lancair ES, Lancair Super-ES, Lancair Legacy, Lancair PropJet and the military version, Lancair Sentry. He has over thirty years in the general aviation business and has received numerous awards from a number of prestigious aviation and other groups for his contributions to the design and engineering of advanced composite aircraft. IN 1991, Lance relocated his businesses to Oregon.

In 1995, Lance began a completely new company, partnering with the country of Malaysia, to development his first FAA Part 23 certified Lancair, the Columbia 300. He received that Type Certificate from the FAA in 1997. This was the first new four seat aircraft to achieve FAA certification in over 30 years. In 2003 his second Type Certificate was issued for the Lancair Columbia 350, and 2004 saw the third Type Certificate for the Lancair Columbia turbo 400. The turbo 400 is today the fastest certified fixed gear piston aircraft, single or twin, manufactured in the world with a cruise speed of 235 knots and a range of up to 1,300 nautical miles.

Lance with wife Linda and two daughters, Jessica and Kristen, reside in Redmond, OR.

Lance sold the kit companies in 2003 and in that same year the Malaysian government bought out Lance's stock in the certified production company.

Lance formally retired from the Production Company in 2006.

In 2007, the Production Company was purchased by Cessna.

Today Lancair aircraft are well known across more than 45 countries and noted for their advanced composite structures, beauty, safety, and best performance in class.

The companies he founded and ran:

Neico Aviation Inc. 1985 President and CEO

Neico Aviation was the first company formed to manufacture and market kit aircraft. The company was profitable every year.

Lancair International Inc. 1991 President and CEO

Created to be a master distributor for the product line. Profitable every year of its existence. Combined kit company revenues grew to approximately \$15M annually.

Advanced Composite Technologies, 1988 President and CEO

ACT is a Philippine manufacturing company formed by Lance to build composite components and perform major sub assemblies. Neibauer created the “Fast Build” concept with this company and such preassembled kits are today the standard in the industry.

Pacific Aviation Composites LLC, 1995 President and CEO

The company name was changed in 2000 to The Lancair Company. The company was the first to successfully design and certify a new generation of General Aviation four seat aircraft with the FAA in over 30 years.

Awards:

- *August Raspet Award for Advancement of General Aviation in America*—Experimental Aircraft Association (1989)
- *Top Ten U.S. Designers/Engineers*—Designer News (1991)
- *President’s Award*—Light Aircraft Manufacturers Association (1993)
- *TCM Achievement Award for Significant Contribution to General Aviation*—Teledyne Continental Motors (1993)
- *FAA Primary Category Aircraft – (1994)* Was a co-author of the definition and methodology for the new FAA Primary Category of aircraft certification.
- *Design Exhibition*—NY Museum of Modern Art (1995): Lancair 320  
First aircraft ever to be displayed in the NYMMA as a work of art
- *NASA AGATE Program – (1995)* Was a founding member of the NASA Advanced General Aviation Transport Experiments group. And performed the first sanctioned research program in the NASA industry group.
- *Top Ten Entrepreneurs*—Entrepreneur Magazine (1997)  
Awarded first Part 23 Type Certificate by the FAA for the Lancair Columbia 300. The first issued by the FAA in over 30 years for a four seat aircraft.
- *Special Citation for New Era of Aircraft with Improved Performance and*

*Enhanced Safety*—Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (1998)

- *Top Ten Aviation Newsmakers* — Aviation International Inc. (1998)
- *Inducted into the Experimental Aircraft Assoc. Hall of Fame* (2009)
- *Flying Magazine, one of top 25 Most Beautiful Aircraft of all time, Lancair IV-P* (2013)