

Gulfstream Heritage Tour



Ron Verhaegh

A more and more common sight at various remote desert airfields like California City-Municipal (CA), old but still beautiful Gulfstream aircraft waiting to be broken up. Besides Gulfstream IISP N706TJ (c/n 212) with 'JetStar' titles on it's tail some thirteen other Gulfstream aircraft can be found stored, worked on or already broken up at Norm Hill Aviation. Get them before it's too late! (23 October 2013, all photos by author).

I was born in 1974, the year the Gulfstream II was flying around already for almost eight years. I started spotting in the early 90's, the era the Gulfstream IV conquered the skies replacing the seventies Gulfstream III design. Why this personal introduction you might think? Just to point out that I missed the sight of a sky full of early built G-II and G-III aircraft. A miss that I tried to catch up with in my spotting years that followed.

Of course the best way would be to see active and flying G-II's and G-III's. But well, that's a rare sight these days, especially in Europe. Another possibility is trying to see as many stored and preserved vintage Gulfstream aircraft as possible, before they disappear forever due to breaking up for parts.

As the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) convention & exhibition was planned in Las Vegas, Nevada this year, it looked like a good opportunity to combine the show with visiting some small and remote airfields, known for their Gulfstream storage and breaking up facilities. But, interest is not only limited to the old stuff of course. Basically said, all Gulfstream aircraft encountered were very welcome, but this one-week US trip was mainly focused on the California and Arizona stored G-II and G-III airframes. For me, a real Gulfstream heritage tour!

Düsseldorf

19 October 2013

N451DC G450 Dow Chemical

Las Vegas-McCarran International (NV) 19 October 2013

N450QS G450 NetJets
 N464ST G450 JM Aviation Holdings
 N794MH G-IV Cinema Aircr Exec Transp
 OE-LPN G550 Global Jet Austria

Let's start at the beginning. I flew from Düsseldorf to Las Vegas-McCarran International airport and arrived in the evening of 19 October. After getting my Alamo rental car for the week I made a small trip up to the FBO's. Surprisingly my first new Gulfstream was an Austrian one, recently delivered to Global Jet Austria

Las Vegas-McCarran International airport is well-known for its huge amount of bizjet traffic, especially during special occasions like the NBAA convention & exhibition. In total during the week some four full days were spent watching all the bizjets come in, occasionally varied with a visit to Las

Vegas-Henderson Executive or Las Vegas-North. Besides the visitors flying their Gulfstreams to Vegas and doing some gambling or a show, there are also some operators of Gulfstream aircraft based at Las Vegas airport itself. Main operators are Las Vegas Sands Corporation and MGM Resorts Aviation.

My stay for the first couple of days was the Tropicana Motel 6 at East Tropicana Avenue just opposite to the Atlantic FBO. A spotter's favourite choice I guess because a lot of English bizjet talk was heard from the rooms next to mine. When staying at this motel ask for a room with a view on the airport. For example, from my room 316 on the first floor I could spot a part of the Atlantic platform and all the arriving bizjet traffic.

Las Vegas-McCarran International (NV) 20 October 2013

B-8093	G450	Deerjet
N168CE	G-V	Caesars Entertainment
N175BG	G-III	175BG
N181CR	G-IV	Corporate Wings
N236MJ	G-IV	Michael Jordan
N383LS	G-V	Las Vegas Sands
N412WW	G-IVSP	Canal Air
N452AC	G-V	Butler Aviation
N502GM	G350	Vesey Air
N509QS	G-V	NetJets
N565ST	G550	JM Aviation Holdings
N603KE	G-IVSP	Bennie Air
N722MM	G350	MGM Resorts Aviation
N723MM	G350	MGM Resorts Aviation
N917W	G-IV	GC Air
N962SS	G-IV	Henn Leasing
N972MS	G-IVSP	Las Vegas Sands

Henderson-Executive (NV)

20 October 2013

N65CC	G-IVSP	NBI
N142HQ	G450	NBAA static, Delta Jet
N211FZ	G350	Aircraft T&F
N450GA	G450	NBAA static, GAC demo
N512LT	G450	NBAA static, Wells Fargo
N550GA	G550	NBAA static, GAC demo
N650RR	G650	NBAA static, Million Air
N740VC	G-III	NBAA static, SK Aviation
N767DT	G450	NBAA static, Wells Fargo
N855G	G550	General Dynamics

Las Vegas-Henderson Executive was the place of the NBAA

static display this year. Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation displayed all types currently in production. Compared to the EBACE show in Geneva new demonstration G450 and G550 aircraft were present of which the G550 was outfitted with the new Gulfstream Elite interior.

Las Vegas-McCarran International (NV) 21 October 2013

N7UF	G-IVSP	F&L Aviation
N198GS	G-IV	AVN Air
N450GD	G450	Gulfstream Aerospace
N522AC	G400	Pegasus Leasing
N539VE	G450	Valero Services
N711FW	G450	Wells Fargo Bank
N711SW	G650	Wynn Resorts
N721FF	G-IVSP	Feritta Victoria
N725MM	G550	MGM Resorts Aviation
N999GP	G-IV	GEP Air
VP-CIP	G550	TAG Aviation USA

The G650 of Steve Wynn returned 15 minutes past 6 in the evening on a non-stop flight from Macau. It probably returned from a visit to the Wynn Macau location. For me it was the first G650 seen flying.

Henderson-Executive (NV) 21 October 2013

N20HE	G-IISP	Hubbard Broadcasting
N178SD	G450	Bank of Utah
N817ME	G-IVSP	ME Leasing

Las Vegas-McCarran International (NV) 22 October 2013

N555TF	G450	Master Four
N728MM	G450	MGM Resorts Aviation
N846QM	G-V	Wells Fargo Bank
N958BX	G-IVSP	Otter Air

North Las Vegas (NV) 22 October 2013

N800JH	G550	J&J Aviation
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North Las Vegas is a real general aviation airfield with mainly small props and bizjets but occasionally also some bigger planes like a Gulfstream G550.

Henderson-Executive (NV) 22 October 2013

B-8093	G450	NBAA static, Deerjet
N19H	G-III	HBI Leasing
N450MS	G-IV	Martin Sprocket & Gear

N545CC	G-V	NBAA static, Colony Captl
N835AA	G-IV	Washington Penn Plastic
Las Vegas-McCarran International (NV)		23 October 2013
N213BA	G-III	Marquez Brothers Aviation
N650HC	G650	Group Holdings EG
N721MM	G550	MGM Resorts Aviation
California City-Municipal (CA)		23 October 2013
(C-GBBB)	G-III	stored, c/n on nose
(N17KJ)	G-IISP	stored, c/n on nose
(N36RR)	G-IIB	moved from storage, c/n
(N190RP)	G-IISP	stored, no engines, c/n
(N378SE)	G-III	stored, no engines, c/n
(N416KD)	G-II	worked, in front of hangar
N550WP	G-IISP	stored, visible registration
(N555XS)	G-III	in hangar, without tail
(N605RA)	G-IISP	stored, c/n on nose
(N706TJ)	G-IISP	no engines, 'JetStar' titles
(N800RT)	G-IISP	stored, no engines, c/n
(N880WE)	G-II	tail section only in dump
(VP-BFF)	G-IISP	stored, no engines, c/n
(ZS-CTL)	G-II	stored, c/n on nose

After three full days in the surreal Las Vegas world and a visit to the NBAA convention, it was time to visit some remote desert storage airfields. One of the highlights on this heritage tour was the California City airport, almost 350 km, direction west, from Las Vegas. Situated in a corner of this remote airport there is Norm Hill Aviation at 5999 Curtis Place where Gulfstream aircraft are broken up for parts. When I arrived early afternoon, Gulfstream II, N416KD (c/n 231), was in front of the hangar. Inside the hangar Gulfstream III N555XS (c/n 342) could be found already without a tail. This aircraft arrived at California City from Oakland on 29 June 2012. Behind the hangar there was a dump area holding the tail section of Gulfstream II N880WE, c/n 217.

The people working on the aircraft were very friendly and after asking it was no problem to take some pictures of the aircraft in front of the hangar and at the storage area. They told me to watch out for green snakes when walking up there! The storage area contained 11 more Gulfstream II and III aircraft nicely parked next to each other. Almost all of the



At Henderson-Executive (NV) an early built Gulfstream IISP (c/n 51) was noted on 21 October 2013. Started as N2013M for Monsanto in 1969 it has been owned by Hubbard Broadcasting since August 2004. Hubbard Broadcasting is an American television and radio broadcasting corporation started by Stanley E. Hubbard and based in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1999 this Gulfstream was converted to G-IISP and currently it is equipped with QS3 hush kits.



Parts are taken from Gulfstream II N416KD (c/n 231) in front of the Norm Hill Aviation hangars at California City-Municipal (CA). In better days it was flying for Nimex, Chemco International, Ken Looney and Eastman Kodak (23 October 2013).

aircraft are in a near complete state but mostly without registration markings (only a small indication of the construction number on the nose) and some had their engines removed. When walking to the end of the static line Gulfstream II N36RR (c/n 4) was just being moved from storage to the hangar area. Maybe I witnessed it moving for the last time...?

As one of the first Gulfstream jets ever built construction number 4 has an interesting history. First flight was on 1 October 1967 as N832GA. In June 1968 it was delivered to Coca Cola Co. as 'The Windship'. In 1977 it departed to Kuwait as 9K-ACY and in 1982 the aircraft was converted to G-IIB. Some other facts regarding the stored Gulfstreams: VP-BFF (c/n 186) was the first G-II on the German civil register as D-ACVG and did some work in Nigeria as 5N-AML, N706TJ (c/n 212) hit a fuel truck on the ground at Seattle-Boeing Field in 2010 after which the tip tanks were removed, ZS-CTL (c/n 218) flew for the Government of Cote d'Ivoire from 1978 until 1987 and C-GBBB (c/n 368) for the Government of Algeria as 7T-VRB. Finally N190RP (c/n 136) was registered in South Africa, Swaziland, Senegal and Mexico.

Mojave Air & Space Port (CA) 23 October 2013

N311MG	G-IISP	stored
N424GC	G-IISP	stored
N500RQ	G-II	stored
N510US	G-IISP	stored
N608CM	G-IIB	stored
N660AF	G-IIB	stored
N930LS	G-IITT	stored
N1454	G-III	stored

Mojave is a storage airfield well known for numerous of stored Airbus, Boeing, Lockheed and McDonnell Douglas aircraft. Some are worked on and others are scrapped. Also Flight Test Associates is based here with some Rockwell Sabreliners. Besides this it is the first facility to be licensed in the United States for horizontal launches of reusable spacecraft and a lot of testing on this subject is done.

Within the mass of mentioned airliners some Gulfstream aircraft can be found in various states. Identification of the aircraft is only possible in a good way by an off-road tour going on the various dirt tracks around the airport. As I did this some years ago I did not do it again this time. Because of that I'm not 100% sure which Gulfstream aircraft are still there and in which state. For this report I compiled a list of aircraft that are reported and spotted stored and partly scrapped at Mojave in recent years. There are no sightings of new aircraft arriving and latest reports and pictures indicate some eight aircraft are still present.

Lancaster-General William J. Fox (CA) 23 October 2013

N35GZ	G-III	Ajeton
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While driving from Mojave to Van Nuys I suddenly passed Lancaster. As there also is an airport I decided to explore it for maybe another Gulfstream. I was lucky!

Van Nuys (CA) 23 October 2013

N45AC	G-IV	Ashton Aviation
N100JF	G-IV	Gulfstream Ventures
N110SN	G-IVSP	SNNK Partners
N162JC	G-V	Trans-Exec Air Service
(N173EL)?	G-IITT	fuselage only, no reg.
N175BG	G-III	175BG
N222LX	G-V	Trans-Exec Air Service
N226MP	G-IVSP	MPM Financial
N227SV	G-IV	Assembly Point Aviation
N251VP	G450	Howard Hughes
N264CL	G-IISP	Lacy Clay
N267LG	G-IVSP	Bank of Utah
N269HM	G-IV	Flynt Aviation
N270MC	G-III	Bank of Utah
N304TS	G-III	Nomad Transportation
N450BD	G-III	Bramblebush GIII
N457DS	G-IV	Goldencloud Enterprises
N472QS	G-IVSP	NetJets
N55GV	G-V	Wilmington Trust
N700PP	G-IVSP	DGRG Leasing
N720DR	G-IISP	A&S World Aircraft
N780W	G-V	Bank of Utah
N808MF	G-IVSP	Gypsy Baby
N851GG	G450	Pleasant Aircraft Leasing
N888ES	G-IV	G1120 Equipment Leasing
N89888	G-IVSP	Bank of Utah
XA-BVG	G-IV	BVG Viajes SA de CV

Van Nuys airport gets some bizjet traffic during a day but always looks very quiet in my opinion. A lot of Gulfstream aircraft can be found here, some still very active and others more or less stored or worked on. The Gulfstream fuselage was reported before and is supposed to be from G-IITT (c/n: 173) but this is not 100% confirmed.

Long Beach-Daugherty Field (CA) 23 October 2013

B-8099	G450	for completion at GAC
I-SEAM	G550	for completion at GAC
N2N	G650	for completion at GAC
N4FL	G-IVSP	Fredex
N331GA	G650	for completion at GAC
N551GA	G-V	Wells Fargo Bank
N640GA	G650	for completion at GAC
N658GA	G650	for completion at GAC
N661GA	G650	for completion, primer

N721S G-V Wells Fargo Bank

After all the beautiful classic Gulfstream II and III aircraft it was time for some brand new, and even not completed and still green, Gulfstream aircraft. I arrived at Long Beach-Daugherty Field (CA) during the evening hours as it was already dark. At Long Beach, Gulfstream Aerospace runs a completion and service facility.

There are some good spots for noting the Gulfstream aircraft worked on. First I drove to the Gulfstream facility itself. Turning right from East Donald Douglas Drive there are some possibilities to peak into the hangars. But because of the presence of a guard at this side it is not wise to stay here for a long time. A different view is possible from the parking lot of the Fire Brigade next to North Lakewood Boulevard. The best spot however to spot the most of the parked and hangared aircraft at the Gulfstream facility is the parking lot of the DeVry University.

Long Beach is a good place to see the newest Gulfstream flagship, the G650. The first one was delivered in December 2012 and at this time more than 35 found their way to a new home.

24 October 2013

N132FP	G-IIISP	Crenshaw Church of LA
N147GA	G550	for completion, primer
N344GA	G550	for completion at GAC
N541GA	G550	for completion at GAC
N557JK	G-III	Bank of Utah
N646GA	G650	for completion, primer
N728EC	G550	for completion at GAC
N745GA	G550	for completion at GAC

Santa Ana-John Wayne Airport (CA)

24 October 2013

N1AM	G-IV	Alise Aviation
N236LP	G450	Crest Aviation
N598GS	G-IVSP	Crest Aviation
N1963N	G450	Water Force One

Los Angeles International (CA)

24 October 2013

OE-IZI	G550	Tyrolean Jet Services
VP-CGN	G550	Genie One Aviation
VP-CZZ	G650	Jet Aviation Hong Kong

A quick visit to the FBOs at LAX found a Hong Kong based G650 and two nice G550s.

Van Nuys (CA)

24 October 2013

N889TC	G-IV	Blackhorse Two
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Burbank-Bob Hope (CA)

24 October 2013

N100ES	G650	Earth Star / Disney
N783MB	G-V	ETPC Aviation

N900ES G550 Earth Star / Disney

Burbank is an airport with not a lot of good viewing possibilities (or maybe I couldn't find them) and always gives a little bit of frustration. Main goal for me this time was to find the new Disney operated Gulfstream G650. After driving around the field and going into as much side roads as I could I suddenly spotted through some trees a Gulfstream G550 in a hangar. It turned out to be the Disney owned N900ES. Even better was the view into the hangar to the left of the G550 hangar. It housed the wanted G650 with the registration N100ES clearly visible on the engine covers.

The Earth Star/Disney fleet includes three Gulfstream aircraft. Besides the mentioned G650 and G550 they are also flying around with a G450. I did notice an aircraft inside the G550 hangar but I'm not sure if this was the G450. I also could not stay any longer as a police car was approaching and I did not want any questions about what I was doing standing on private property at the fence with my binoculars.

Chino (CA)

24 October 2013

N141JF	G-II	stored
N218SE	G-II	stored
N380AC	G-IIISP	stored, complete
N2000	G-IIISP	stored, complete
XB-RRC	G-IIISP	stored, complete

At Chino there is a facility for working on old Gulfstream aircraft also. When arriving at the airfield I first headed for the museum area but there was no sign of the Gulfstreams I was looking for. It turned out that when coming from Freeway 60 and following Euclid Avenue I had to turn left into Kimball Avenue. Following this road for about 1.5 km I found the Encore Jet Center hangars on the other side of the airport. Five Gulfstream II aircraft were parked on both sides of the four hangars. Inside one of the hangars there was another, hush-kit equipped, Gulfstream but the registration could not be seen.

Ontario International (CA)

24 October 2013

N2JR	G-IIB	M2 Aircraft Group	wfu
N213BA	G-III	Marquez Brothers Aviation	
N388LR	G-III	R Consulting and Sales	
N750RA	G-IIISP	M2 Aircraft Group	wfu
N868DS	G-IIB	World Jet	

Difficult to find, but on the far side of this airport, there was a row of one G-III and three G-IIs. These are not all stored because N213BA was seen landing twice at Las Vegas during the week.



Kingman airport in Arizona is home for a lot of stored aircraft. After some searching also a Gulfstream IISP can be found standing in the grass. N396CF (c/n 96) made its first flight in August 1970 and did it's work mainly in the US and Mexico. In February 2010 this Gulfstream arrived at Kingman where it is stored since (25 October 2013).

Kingman (AZ)

N396CF

G-IISP

stored, taped off windows

After visiting the Ontario airport I had a decision to make. I could drive all the way up to Kingman airport in Arizona, to catch another stored Gulfstream II, or I could go directly back to Vegas? Not knowing if, or when, I would come back I headed for Arizona. After almost 470 km on a beautiful desolate road I reached Kingman in the dark. I decided to stop at a Motel 6 and visit the airport the next day. Kingman airport is a place where a lot of aircraft are stored. Between parked DHL and SAS aircraft also a Gulfstream II can be found standing in the grass. N396CF (c/n 96) is stored at Kingman since February 2010. The aircraft was registered in Mexico on different occasions for example as XC-MEX with Banco de Mexico in 1977.

Henderson-Executive (NV)

N501JV

G-IISP

Jetvue

Las Vegas-McCarran International (NV)

N24JR

G-IV

Winbrook

N32MJ

G-III

Magic Johnson

N450BD

G-III

Bramblebush GIII

N472QS

G-IVSP

NetJets

25 October 2013**25 October 2013****25 October 2013**

N650PW

G400

Bohemian Air 400

The second Gulfstream of a famous basketball player! After the Michael Jordan Gulfstream IV, N236MJ, earlier this week, now the G-III owned by Magic Johnson arrived.

N1DW

G450

Air Orange

N284CC

G550

Colony Lease

N300UJ

G-III

Pontiac Aviation

N324CX

G-V

Wilmington Trust

N44ZF

G-IV

Zyman Aviation

N623MS

G-III

Yona Aviation

N1625

G-IVSP

BCSD Transportation

26 October 2013

After more than a week chasing old and new Gulfstream aircraft it was time to go home. The trip was very rewarding. Still for me the most exciting part of our hobby is to drive to a new, never before explored, airport and to check out which beautiful aircraft are present. Regarding the old Gulfstreams and the main goal of the trip, more than 50 G-IIs and G-IIIs were noted. Some even still going strong and seen flying! But they will not be around forever, as more and more are parted out. So get your part of the Gulfstream heritage before it's too late!



The National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) convention and exhibition static display at Henderson-Executive (NV) attracted some nice visitors. This splendid looking Gulfstream IISP (c/n 168) is still going strong after it's first flight in August 1975. It is owned by Jetvue. (25 October 2013)



Gulfstream IISP, VP-BFF (c/n 186) is, already disabled, awaiting its fate at California City-Municipal (CA) under a burning sun on 23 October 2013. After a career of almost forty years and flying all over the world it will end up as spare parts.