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**Workable  
Automation  
For Home & Hangar**

# Martin's CJ4

by LeRoy Cook and Eric Gross



**T**he life of a NASCAR race driver revolves, quite literally, around the track. On the speedway circuit, professional race drivers are always preparing for the next weekend's race, while decompressing from the last event. In order to have a life, separate and apart from the whirl of the racing circuit, a lot of drivers use personal aircraft as a way to get to and from the track, just so they can have time to see their families and work out a plan for a life after racing.

Veteran driver Mark Martin retired last year, after 32 years of driving super-fast cars, including

49 wins in NASCAR's Nationwide series and 40 wins in the Sprint Cup series. The word retirement doesn't fit his style, however; he keeps his hand in by serving as a racing consultant and running a chain of automobile dealerships. Martin shuttles between his home in Daytona Beach, Florida, NASCAR interests in North Carolina and his original home in Batesville, Arkansas, near where his four car dealerships are located. His current airplane is a Citationjet CJ4, acquired in 2010.

Martin began his racing career on the dirt tracks of Arkansas. He moved on to asphalt racing and joined the American Speed

Association racing series, then moved into NASCAR racing in 1981. As of 2013, he held the title for the second most wins in the Nationwide Series. On November 8, 2013, Martin announced that he would not race in 2014, but he was not yet ready to use the word “retirement”. Martin continues to work in a consulting role (including testing).

“I visited the Spruce Creek fly-in community in 1993 and liked it, buying a place there to use as a vacation home, but eventually it became my primary residence. I had owned a King Air B90 that was professionally-flown, primarily to get to races and commute to North Carolina. However, it was unfair to ask my pilot to continually run back and forth to Florida, so I got on the fast track to get my private license in early 1995, flying a Piper Warrior at Daytona.

“In March, 1995, I earned my multi-engine rating in four days, using a Piper Seminole, and in November of that year I received my instrument rating, for multi-engine only, since I had no use for a single-engine instrument ticket. For the next 1½ years, I did a lot of my own flying; I owned a Twin Commander, then a Cessna 340, and eventually moved up to a CitationJet, getting my type rating in 1997.

“At this point, I’ve got over 3,000 hours of CJ time. I replaced the CJ with a CJ2 in 2001, went to a CJ2+ in

2007, upgraded to a CJ3 in 2008, and now I’m flying the CJ4, the best one yet. I always kept a pilot, to fly us home after the races, even though I now do most of my own flying.”

### Finally, Home Automation That Works

Martin’s Spruce Creek, Florida home is located on the golf course, with the CJ4’s hangar a block or so away. As with many of us, he has security and management concerns while he’s absent, so a home automation system is a must, allowing for remote activation and adjustments, and automated management while he’s there. A previous





system was disappointing in its performance, but his present system, the ELAN g! Home Automation system, has worked well since it was installed.

The ELAN g! system lets Martin call up its control panel on his iPhone before a homebound departure, resetting environmental parameters and generally actuating all the home's components so it'll be ready when he arrives. In his words, it's solved all his prior problems and works flawlessly.

"After putting up with a difficult AMX system for ten years in my home...I had given up on home automation," Martin said. "I hired Ryan Heringer of Sound Concepts to remove my AMX system and simplify everything, but when he showed up at the house he said I needed to see the ELAN g! system before giving up. He showed me his iPad with the ELAN g! app, and right away I realized that this was the type of system I had wanted all along. I was still a little hesitant because of my earlier experience, so we started by only integrating the AV, surveillance cameras, garage doors and the driveway

gate. Now, we've added HVAC and will likely continue to add more features, as we've done at our home in North Carolina."

Once the ELAN g! system was also up and running at his Arkansas home, Martin realized there was a lot more he could do to make his life simpler. He has a private hangar near each of his homes, so he and his integrator came up with a plan to put ELAN g! systems in the North Carolina home and both hangars.

"I already had another AMX system in the Arkansas hangar, and I was anxious to replace it, once I saw how much ELAN improved the home control experience," Martin added. "Obviously, the hangars don't need as much integration, but it's been incredibly helpful to have the cameras and security accessible on my iPhone, even allowing me to check the weather before I fly, so I know immediately if it's raining or foggy at my destination. For the homes, I now have the ability to turn on the outdoor lights and set the heat or air conditioning while traveling, so it's exactly how we want it when we arrive. The security integration also gives us a much greater peace of mind, and we know that if, god forbid, anything should happen, we have cameras and a DVR that will record the event and help us resolve it."

Managing multiple properties from a single app is a great feature, but there was one major part of the system that Martin wanted to be sure of before expanding it to all of his properties – it had to be easy to use!

"I'm not a tech wizard by any means, but I know how to use an iPhone, so with the ELAN g! app I can operate my shades, HVAC, lighting, door locks, driveway gate and more. That's one of the reasons we started out small at the Arkansas house. If we thought it was difficult



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at all we wouldn't have expanded that system or installed additional systems at the other house and hangars. Honestly, it's so easy to use that I can't imagine someone not being able to master it quickly.

"My wife uses it and likes it; we both learned the basics right away, and then we got more familiar with some of the more-advanced features, like the door lock logs that show who's used the doors throughout

the day. That's been a wonderful feature too, because we've created unique codes for people who work at the house, so they can come and go, and we know who was there and when they came and left. Then, if we change providers, we can erase those codes, so it's very convenient and keeps people honest."

To learn more about ELAN® Home Systems, visit [www.elanhomesystems.com](http://www.elanhomesystems.com). 



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