

Cessna Makeover: Cardinal Creation

Written by Roy Sobchuk

Friday, 16 July 2010 09:12 - Last Updated Friday, 16 July 2010 09:59

I've owned my 1974 Cessna Cardinal for about 30 years, and now it has been just about everywhere in North America. In the 1970s and 1980s, my wife and I traveled as a family with our four young ones (we used the jump seat for two of the youngest). We chose the Cardinal because of it looks sexy, has a large interior, is easy to get in and out of, and, of course, the visibility is excellent. Now that we are seniors, we appreciate the Cardinal's ease of entry and exit even more!

Our trips took us into eastern Canada, including the Maritimes. We also went to all of the major spots along the East Coast and central United States, as far south as Florida. We went to Oshkosh, Wis., (EAA) and all the spots around Lake Michigan – Door County (Wis.) and the Traverse City (Mich.) area, Detroit, and Chicagoland.

Our Southwestern trips have taken us as far south as Arizona (PHX and TUS). We have traveled countless times to western Canada. Our many northern trips include places like Flin Flon, Manitoba, which has never-ending sunlight in the summertime, pristine clear waters, and clean air.

We have fond memories of every part of North America. It is hard to say which was the most memorable journey, but certain things drew us back to specific areas. For instance, we always enjoy the seafood from eastern North America; the smoked meats and ribs from Boston to Richmond, Va.; the family entertainment from South Carolina to Florida; and the beauty of the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence. The valley of Arizona has the best flying weather in winter, along with some spectacular views. The Canadian Rockies are a sight to behold from the air. We often want to go back to the various areas to see and explore their beauty and to taste more of their food and culture. That's the nice thing about owning an airplane; when the will strikes you, you can pick up and go!

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5-20-10 The final paint job is complete, the final coat of base paint is applied, the clear coat is applied, and the plane is ready for flight.