

Traveling by Land, Sea or Air?

This fall Mike, along with Travis, our director of maintenance at MARC, were given a unique task by our executive director. MARC recently purchased a Cessna 172 aircraft located in Petersburg, AK. Petersburg is located in South East AK and is only accessible by boat or aircraft, as there are no roads in or out. The aircraft needed to be brought back to MARC, but there was one catch: the engine needed work, rendering the aircraft unairworthy. The most viable option was to travel to Petersburg with a truck and trailer, remove the wings, disassemble the aircraft, and trailer it back to MARC and that is exactly what we did. We first had to drive 900 miles from our base to the small town of Haines. This entailed crossing into Canada for part of the drive and then dropping back down into the USA. From Haines we loaded the truck and trailer onto a ferry and traveled another 225 miles by sea. Once we arrived, it took around two days of work to disassemble the aircraft and get it packaged up and tied down on the trailer. We got plenty of funny looks from people as we pulled back on to the ferry with a big trailer and a whole aircraft on top of it! Everything fit as it should on the ship and soon we were sailing toward home. We got off the ferry around 4:30 AM the next morning and began our long drive home. Twenty two hours and two border crossings later, we pulled into the hangar. We were tired.... but we were home. Work has begun on the aircraft to bring it up to our standards and we hope to have it operational and in use the first half of 2018. This aircraft will be used to give flight instruction both in the local community and for pastors and missionaries who are receiving flight training. In the over 2200 miles that we traveled by land and sea, the Lord's hand of protection was upon us. We didn't have any maintenance trouble with the vehicle, trailer, or our unique cargo load. After you have driven those roads a few times, you know that is truly an answer to prayer! As a family we are thankful for you! Thank you for being our encouragers, prayer warriors, gift senders, for literally clothing and feeding us, and loving us so wonderfully over the years!





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