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## **Plane Old Passion**

Have you ever had a dream to fly? I have. It all started with watching videos of racing drones on YouTube. They inspired me! So, in junior high, I did an immense amount of reading and research in order to understand the basic workings of quadcopters and built my first drone. When I watched the videos on YouTube I thought they were pretty cool, but when I flew the drone for the first time, it felt as if I was in the cockpit of an Extra 300! I was no longer limited by the horizontal, two-dimensional plane of the surface of the earth. Rather, I could travel freely through three dimensional space unlike anything else I have experienced. So many new orientations! I was hooked. I built four more drones, flying and racing them all, but I didn't stop there. I knew that I wanted more. What If I ACTUALLY was in the cockpit. My brother Chase, a pilot who rebuilds airplanes, and I are restoring a plane, a 1956 Cessna 180 Skywagon.

The Skywagon spent its life as a float plane in Sioux Lookout, Ontario. One day while the plane was docked, a float took on water and the entire plane capsized. It was immediately drug out, but the tail sustained damage. The plane was then labeled "unairworthy" and was inoperative. The plane was stowed away hoping to eventually be renovated, but no one ever got around to it. That's where my brother and I came in and seized the opportunity. I have been working on it ever since!

The engine is a Continental o-470-K. It is a 7.7 liter, horizontally opposed, naturally aspirated, carbureted, 6-cylinder, internal combustion engine. Through the supervision and

review of my brother, I am doing a total tear down, recertification of all parts, and complete overhaul of this engine. I've spent days balancing counteracting components of this engine and dynamically balancing the crankshaft. I've stripped the aircraft fuselage down to the bare metal, and we are building it from the ground up. Everything is being carefully inspected and analyzed for any sort of corrosion, distress, wear, fractures, or damage. We are basically building around a set of wheels. Our goal for completion is this coming summer.

I am a true AV Geek at heart, and what drives me is my passion for Aviation and All Things That Fly! I could talk for hours and hours about this plane and what I've done to it and am doing to it, but those are mere words. If I am fortunate enough to be selected as a Jiffy Lube Finalist, I can't wait to show you a video of the Skywagon! Additionally, my dreams and goals of a career in Aviation are being realized, as I recently found out that I will be attending MIT this Fall, and will be pursuing a degree in Aeronautical Engineering. My dreams are really beginning to Soar and I am thrilled to Spread my Wings at MIT!