

Mission Aviation Training Academy

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BIG WEEK AT MATA FIRST WEEK OF MAY VERY EVENTFUL

INSTRUMENT RATING EARNED.

On May 3rd Gene Ketcham took the FAA checkride to earn his Instrument Rating, which allows him to be pilot-in-command under Instrument Flight Rules, the same procedures used by airline pilots, and to fly solely by reference to the flight instruments.



Gene, on his way to his checkride

JESUS SAID,
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JOHN 6:35

hours toward the 40 hours of instrument time and 50 hours of cross-country time required for the Instrument Rating. Ian also logged the time



toward the 250 hours required for a Commercial Pilot certificate.

The plane was donated by Paul Siken, a long-time friend and supporter and former instructor at MATA. Thanks Paul and Colleen for this very generous gift!



NEW AIRCRAFT ARRIVES

On May 6th MATA pilots Ian Rojas and Joel Johnson arrived in a beautiful Cessna 172, after a 2-day trip flying up from Phoenix. Ian acted as safety pilot while Joel practiced instrument flying under the “hood,” a device which limits vision to inside the cockpit. Joel logged 13

NEW PRIVATE PILOT

While the MATA staff folks were greeting Ian and Joel, student pilot Ben Blacklock was undergoing the oral exam portion of the FAA checkride to earn his Private Pilot certificate. Ben survived the oral exam and performed well on the flight portion to become our newest Private Pilot.



Ben's father arrived the following day from Calgary to be Ben's first passenger.

Back home, Ben

was pleasantly surprised to find a check waiting from a previous employer, which allowed him to finish his rating debt free! God's provisions are always amazing.



NEW FLIGHT INSTRUCTOR

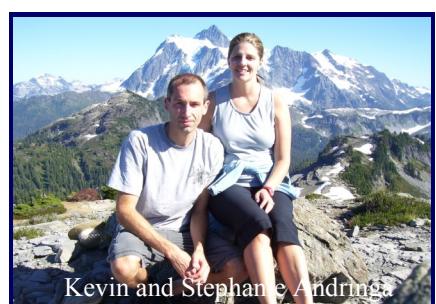
Kevin Andringa, who flies a Boeing 737 for his regular job, has been volunteer-



Kevin and Gene ready to fly

ing part-time at MATA since the end of March to help instructors Gary Elliott and Allen Koopman with the student training load. Kevin's sister heard about MATA during her church's annual missions conference, and challenged him to check us out. Gene Ketcham was our first student to benefit from Kevin's expertise, but we trust there will be many more. We are very thankful for Kevin's willingness to serve, as well as

his wife Stephanie's graciousness giving him up a couple of afternoons a week when he's not out on a trip.



Kevin and Stephanie Andringa



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Training Pilots for Missions

Return Service Requested



<https://www.facebook.com/MATAUSA>
Email: mata.usa@gmail.com

MATATHON

MATA's 11th annual fundraiser will be held on Saturday June 1st.



Participants seek donors to pledge financial support for their effort as they run, walk, or cycle around the airport's 5.9-mile perimeter trail. One local church youth group has been very supportive over the years, and we hope other youth groups will be challenged to join in for some friendly competition, with awards to individuals and the group raising the most money. Airplane rides are also available from Pilots for Christ for a suggested \$30 donation per seat. The event begins at 9:00, with lunch and a short program following.

SUMMER SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Our Saturday night Bible study has been suspended for the summer, to resume in the fall, but MATA pilots will come in a few Saturdays during the summer.

June 1st - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to help with MATATHON

June 8th - Hangar clean up

July 13th - assigned shift at MATA booth during the Arlington Fly-in, help with evening meal at hangar, brief presentations by MAF, JAARS.

August 10th - at 10 a.m. for work detail in the hangar, followed by lunch and a short pilot safety meeting.

C-182 MODIFICATION

Dary and Ian are working to modify our Cessna 182 with a Sportsman STOL (Short Take-Off and Landing) wing leading edge to improve performance. Gordon's long-time friend Karl Anderson also gave some assistance on the wing.

This is the first summer the plane has not gone to Alaska to fly kids to Bible camp. However, we have a pilot who will fly for the Ladies Berry Picking Retreat at Kako and will get a C-182 checkout and experience here at our local more difficult airstrips to prepare him for Alaska. We hope MATA students will get some good high-

performance and mountain flying experience locally while the mountain airstrips are open.

Although N71333 may not be making the trip to Alaska this year, Dary and a group from



Karl & Dary working on STOL

Atonement Free Lutheran will go as counselors and maintenance technicians, and Dary will be available to fly if needed.

Director's Corner



zona with the offer of a Cessna 172 similar to the Cessna 172 that is our main instrument instruction airplane. This will give us both a great backup plane and a second plane when we have two students needing the C-172 at the same time. So, yes we are blessed again with another very useful airplane for our missionary pilot training program.

would like to donate to MATA in the same manner.

Because I have flown in Alaska for so many summers to help fly kids to Bible camp at Kako, I am often asked, are you going or did you go to Alaska this summer? This will be the 12th summer since I started flying to Alaska in 2002 and only the 3rd time not to go. Many of you have helped me with avgas expense and that was always such a blessing. Because of your help hundreds of Eskimo kids and have heard the Gospel, the Good News about Jesus and dozen of them have asked Him to come into their heart and life. If

you would like to help buy avgas for Kako's planes so more kids from the villages can come to know the Lord Jesus, you can send your donations directly to Kako Center, Box 29, Russian Mission, AK 99657, or to us at MATA, and we will forward the funds on to Kako. Either way you will receive a tax deductible receipt.

We are so thankful for each one of you as you continue to faithfully support this ministry that sends out its graduates worldwide.

Have you ever said, "What more can I say?" The Bible tells us, that there is "nothing new under the sun." Yet, it also tells us that the Lord's blessings are new every morning." A couple of weeks ago we received a phone call from Ari-

Another new blessing coming our way is a sizeable donation of stocks and securities. So, we are in the process of setting up an account with E* TRADE so we will be able to receive the donation. We will maintain the account in case others

Gordon Bakke