

Mission Aviation Training Academy

4 2 5 - 2 3 1 - 5 8 5 5

W W W . M A T A - U S A . O R G

A P R I L 2 0 1 4

“Praise be to God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

1 Peter 1:3

STUDENTS:

PRIVATE

KYLE FAHEY

MATT HAMM

NATHAN HOLMES

LAUREN JOHNSON*

ERIK OIEN

JOHN SCHRADER

WILLIAM WING*

INSTRUMENT

TYSON ALDRICH

STEVE KWAN

COMMERCIAL

JAMES DEAR

JOE NOBLE

JUSTIN REEVES

BRANDON RODSTOL*

CFI

JOE HOPKINS

GENE KETCHAM

*TO BEGIN TRAINING SOON

RAIN HASN'T STOPPED MATA STUDENTS

Spring is here, with entire fields just north of us in the Skagit Valley red and purple with tulips. In spite of the unpredictable spring weather, students are moving forward in their training, and we would like to highlight a few.

Ben Blacklock, who earned his Instrument rating only in February, has been flying like crazy to log the 250 hours required for a Commercial Pilot certificate. Ben's dedication paid off as he passed his written and flight exam and is now a Commercial Pilot. He starts a flying job in Manitoba in May, where he will gain the flight hours and experience required in order to apply to a missionary aviation organization.

Joe Noble earned his Instrument rating this month, training two days a week while working the other days to pay for flight lessons. He will work a full-time job this summer to save enough to continue training for a Commercial Pilot certificate in the fall. Remember Joe as he considers employment options in the U.S. and Canada.



John Shrader is a pastor moving his family to Zambia in June. His organization has an airplane already on the field for his use, so he has been working hard to become as proficient and safe a pilot as possible in a compressed time frame. Please pray for John to earn his Private Pilot certificate while he continues to meet his many other family and ministry responsibilities.



April Erhardt came down for two weeks from Soldotna, Alaska, where she is a volunteer with Missionary Aviation Repair Center (MARC), to add a Multi-Engine rating to her Commercial Pilot certificate. She passed her checkride in early April,

and hopes the ME rating will allow her to do more operational mission flying with MARC, versus her present role as a single-engine instructor.

April plans to instruct for MATA's 8th Aviation Summer Camp in July. It will be nice having her as an instructor, as we have 6 girls signed up for camp along with 12 boys.

Keep praying for our students as they work toward their ratings. Five Private Pilot students are close to finishing, and we hope this April will be a record-breaking month for passing checkrides.

TRIPLE 3 TO FLY AT KAKO

Ian Rojas earned his Commercial Pilot certificate in December, and will fly MATA's Cessna 182, N71333, across



Canada and Alaska to serve at Kako Retreat Center this summer. Jonathan Miller, who made the 2,300-mile trip in the summer of 2012, will accompany Ian. This will be the 4th summer N71333 has been to Alaska transporting

Native Alaskans from remote villages on the Yukon Delta to Kako for week-long Bible camps. There they hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, and lives are changed.



Although Kako has aircraft and a pilot, they need help during this busy time of

the year. MATA has been supplementing the Kako aircraft and staff for the past 12 years. Gordon Bakke, MATA's Executive Director, flew his plane and raised money for the fuel costs for several summers until he sold his plane. He always managed to take someone with him to Alaska who would also catch the vision of sharing their time and skills for ministry. The Kako trip is expensive, but provides invaluable training for our advanced students, flying in field conditions while engaged in real ministry which allows others to hear the Gospel, many for the first time. The past four years MATA has been using our MATA-thon fundraiser as a means to provide for this ministry trip. (see more on back)



P.O. Box 3655
19002 59th Dr. NE
Arlington, WA 98223

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ARLINGTON, WA
PERMIT No. 383

Training Pilots for Missions

Return Service Requested



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

Director's Corner



If you were to call MATA at 425-231-5855, you would hear a voice saying "Mission Aviation Training Academy, this is Stacie." Stacie would greet you, answer your questions, or direct you to someone else who could. Stacie Elliott is the administrative assistant at MATA and is a tremendous blessing and help in so many ways, for instance: the producing and mailing of this newsletter every quarter,

organizing special events that are held at the hangar, preparing brochures, planning and preparing the Friday evening suppers that are held weekly for staff and students, coordinating all that is needed for the yearly MATA-thon and for summer camp, cooking the meals for the week-long summer camp, and just being there for the campers, to listen and encourage. Stacie and Gary also provide accommodation for some of the



MATA students as needed. The Elliots came to MATA in June 2006. Gary is the Chief Flight

Instructor and spends many long days and some nights teaching the students to fly. They served as missionaries in the Philippines for 8 years with New Tribes Mission after his retirement from the U. S. Air Force. Gary flew small aircraft in support of tribal missionaries and Stacie was the controller for the HF radio network covering three islands. She also did flight following for airborne pilots, logging their time and position at reporting points. They also managed an 18-room guest house in Manila for about two years.

5 grown children with 8 grandchildren. Stacie is a busy grandma and looks after some of her grandkids every week as well as other family responsibilities.



Stacie and Gary have true "servant hearts" and are a huge part in the work at MATA. THANK YOU to you both.



Gary and Stacie are the parents of

Gordon Bakke
Executive Director



MATA-THON



Run, bike, or walk
Saturday, June 7th, 8am – 12pm
Arlington Airport Trail - MATA Hangar - 19002 59th Dr. NE

I pledge \$ _____ in support of fuel for flying Native Alaskans to camp

I would like to participate in the MATA-THON and get pledges. (Download pledge sheet from our website www.mata-usa.org)

MATA needs to raise \$10,000 to cover the fuel costs to bring kids to Bible camp from remote areas in Alaska.

HOW YOUR CONTRIBUTION HELPS:

\$20 = 2½ \$40 = 5 \$80 = 10

*shown in gallons

Mail check to: MATA
P.O. Box 3655
Arlington, WA 98223

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____