

Mission Aviation Training Academy

425-231-5855

WWW.MATA-USA.ORG

DECEMBER 2015

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL OF US AT MATA

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

MATA's Board of Directors met for two days in October and November, briefly reviewing MATA's history and our accomplishments this year, but spending more time looking to the future. We feel the Lord is positioning us to play a more significant role in training

pilots for missionary service. Please pray for our students to be faithful to the Lord's calling on their lives and to be diligent in their training, and for us to assist their spiritual growth, encouraging and challenging them to persevere through the long process of gaining pilot skills.

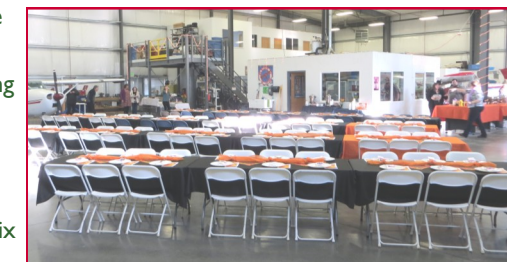


MATA Board (Left to Right around the table) Cal Willard, Allen Koopman, Paul Nash (advisor), Gary Elliott, Myron Davis, Gordon Bakke, Jeremy Crowell, and Dary Finck

THANKFUL FOR GOD'S PROVISIONS

In November MATA served a lovely luncheon for our supporters in the local area. Our guests heard from three of our students who are in different phases of the training, from just ready to start flight training to a graduate applying with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF).

2015 was another amazing year at MATA, flying 1,000 hours in our six



aircraft, with 9 students earning new ratings or certificates and several more hoping to earn their Private Pilot certificate before the end of the year. We have added staff and 10 new students to our program.

We feel MATA will continue to grow and send out missionaries in 2016. Thank you to all our supporters across the country, especially those we were not able to thank in person. You are making it possible for us to train missionary pilots.

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DOWN FROM ALASKA

Jeremy Crowell, son of MATA founder Pastor Mike Crowell, is an alumnus of MATA's missionary pilot training program and an ordained minister in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC) serving with his wife Lacey in Naknek, Alaska. His ministry in the remote north includes providing transportation in aircraft owned by the Free Lutheran Association of Pilot Supporters (FLAPS), which has been providing air transportation services for AFLC staff since 1999. In late September, MATA students Benjamin Bookman and Caleb Webster went to Alaska to help

Jeremy bring the FLAPS Piper Cherokee Six to MATA for an engine change and other major maintenance more practically performed here than in Alaska. Although Jeremy could have made the flight alone, Benjamin and Caleb gained about 16 hours of flight time and valuable experience flying across Alaska, Yukon Territory, and British Columbia, and making two international border crossings. The trip gave them insight into flight ministry in Alaska.

Kako next summer, Benjamin?



Gordon, Dary, and Jeremy pulling the engine on the Cherokee



Jeremy, Benjamin, and Caleb with the Cherokee Six

Jeremy was also able to attend two MATA Board of Directors meetings, and give flight instruction to MATA students, in particular, Benjamin's final preparation before his Commercial Pilot checkride, which he passed on November 2nd. It was also great seeing Lacey and Malachi when they joined Jeremy here.

Director's Corner



We have more new students now than we have ever had in such a short period of time. We have two or three new applica-

tions coming in every month. So, what do we need? We need more Flight Instructors (CFIs), so that each student is able to progress through their respective course without undo delay. Staff openings include flight instructors, mechanics, (mission field experience a plus), and office personnel (including IT). This is in addition to John and Margaret Lewis who served in Alaska and now have

joined our staff. John is doing facilities maintenance and Margaret is helping Stacie with office duties. Lord willing, we hope to continue having our graduates spend time flying in Alaska. It is amazing to see the spiritual and technical growth in them when they have finished their time in Alaska. By then they have sufficient hours in their logbook so they are able to apply to mission and church agencies that

have aviation programs. Your faithful support is a tremendous encouragement and helps "workers (pilots) to go to the uttermost parts of the earth." Thank you and God bless you with a wonderful New Year!

Gordon Bakke
Executive Director

MATA Students/Ratings Earned in 2015

(**bold** print indicates rating earned, regular print shows the rating the student is currently working on)

Andrew Aungst, New Jersey: **Airframe & Powerplant mechanics license (Moody Aviation)**, Private Pilot

Benjamin Blacklock, Alberta, Canada: **Commercial Pilot Multi-Engine Rating**

Benjamin Bookman, Colorado: **Instrument Rating, Commercial Pilot**, Certified Flight Instructor

Madison Chancey (summer camp '14), Missouri: Private Pilot, (Private Pilot ground school, Private Pilot written exam completed)

Chad DeVlieger, Marysville: **Private Pilot**, Instrument Rating

Jonathan Finley, Illinois: **Private Pilot**, Instrument Rating

Amanda Grimwood, Arkansas: **Private Pilot**, Instrument Rating

Ethan Hancock, Ballard: Private Pilot, (Private Pilot written exam completed)

Trey Henderson, Kansas: Private Pilot, (Private Pilot ground school, Private written exam completed)

Joe Hopkins, Bellevue: **Certified Ground Instructor**, Certified Flight Instructor

Clayton Howie (MATA volunteer, website and video production), Camano Island: Instrument Rating

John Lewis (MATA staff), Marysville: Instrument Rating

Harlan Lloyd (serving with Mission Aviation Repair Center), Alaska: **Commercial Pilot Multi-Engine Rating**

Caleb Long (summer camper '13), Arlington: Private Pilot, (Private Pilot ground school, Private Pilot written exam completed)

Jarren Nesibtt California: Private Pilot, (Private Pilot ground school completed)

Joe Noble British Columbia, Canada: **Commercial Pilot, Commercial Pilot Multi-Engine Rating**

Justin Reeves (Lighthouse Mission), Bellingham: **Commercial Pilot**

Benjamin Robbins (summer camper '14), Ferndale: Private Pilot, (Private Pilot ground school, Private Pilot written exam completed)

Ella Robbins (summer camp '14) Ferndale: Private Pilot, (Private Pilot ground school, Private Pilot written exam completed)

Jonathan Robbins (summer camp '14) Ferndale: Private Pilot, (Private ground school, Private Pilot written exam completed)

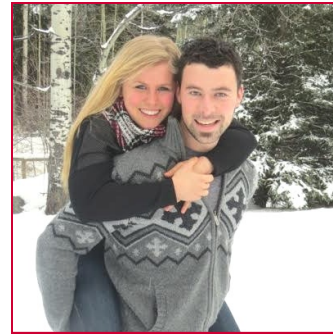
Justin Vaughan, Everett: **Airframe & Powerplant mechanics license (Moody Aviation)**, Private, Private ground school

Caleb Webster, Vashon Island: **Airframe & Powerplant mechanic license (Moody Aviation)**, Private Pilot, (Private Pilot written exam completed)

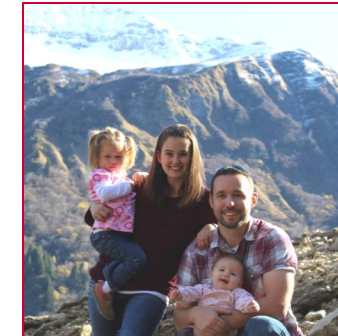
Ian Wilson (summer camper '14), Tacoma: Private (grounded for eye problems, please pray for him)

THREE COUPLES JOIN THE RANKS OF ALUMNI ON THE FIELD

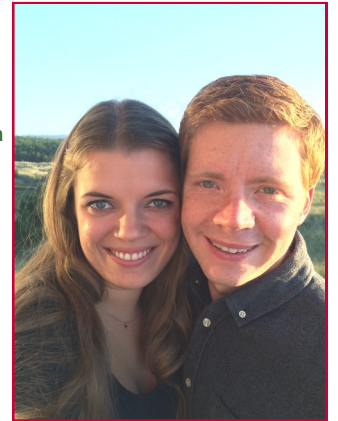
In the last several months three former MATA students have moved into or toward field ministry. **Joe and Paula Noble** moved to British Columbia where Joe flies in support of outreach to remote ranchers, loggers, and First Nations people.



Chad and Jamie Dimon moved to France for language acquisition before their assignment to Congo with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF).



Luke and Sarah Abare minister in an economic development program among the Xhosa people in South Africa with Hope Africa Collective; Luke plans to transition into aviation ministry at a later time.



STUDENTS EARN NEW RATINGS

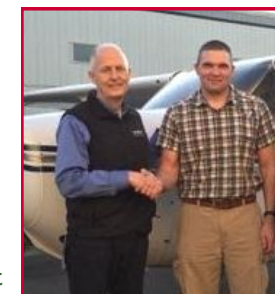
Benjamin Bookman moved here from Colorado in September 2014 and was commissioned to build an RV-10 experimental aircraft for a gentleman in the Arlington area. During this past year he also trained



and earned his Instrument Rating and most recently his Commercial Pilot certificate on November 2nd. We are encouraging Benjamin to stay in the area to get his Airframe and Powerplant mechanic licenses and his Flight Instructor certificate, then intern at MATA as a flight instructor and aircraft mechanic.



Chad DeVlieger, a firefighter in Woodinville, earned his Private Pilot certificate on Saturday November 21st, the day of MATA's thank-you luncheon. Chad plans to continue training at MATA for his Instrument Rating and Commercial Pilot certificate.



SOLO FLIGHTS Congratulations to All

October was a busy month with many days of beautiful flying weather, so three of our students progressed enough in their landing skills to make their initial solo flight, and another one in November. The first flight without an instructor aboard is a big event, so it is fitting to mark the occasion with a bit of celebration. Traditionally, the shirt tail or back is cut off, and the instructor notes the student's name, signs and dates it, and perhaps adds a comment to really personalize the memento. It is then hung on the wall, and it is fun to look back and see all the students who have soloed here at MATA.

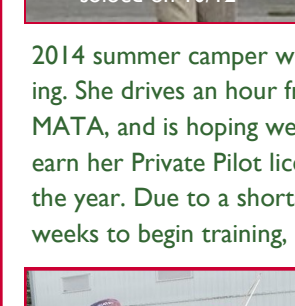


Justin Vaughan soloed on 11/20



Trey Henderson soloed on 10/12

Trey Henderson arrived from Kansas this fall to join our Private Pilot ground school course. He is a faithful servant and it was a joy to see him solo on October 12th.



Ella Robbins soloed on 10/16

Ella Robbins was a 2014 summer camper who fell in love with flying. She drives an hour from Ferndale to train at MATA, and is hoping weather will allow her to earn her Private Pilot license before the end of the year. Due to a shortage of flight instructors her brother had to wait 10 weeks to begin training, but finally had his first flight on December 1st.



Caleb Webster soloed on 10/27

Caleb Webster started flying in August but had a medical issue to resolve with the FAA, so couldn't solo until he had medical clearance. Caleb completed most of his Private Pilot training except the solo portions, and was finally able to solo on October 27th!

Justin Vaughan came to MATA after completing his A&P mechanic licenses and is just behind these other three, and should also finish soon.