

Mission Aviation Training Academy



MATAUSA

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425-231-5855

ALASKA MINISTRY TRIP

MATA is sending a 6-member team (5 staff and students from MATA plus one supporter) to Naknek, Alaska from **February 22nd through March 1st** to assist a MATA-graduate missionary with several projects there. Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC) Pastor Jeremy Crowell, son of MATA founder Mike Crowell, and his wife Lacey will host the team. Along with his pastoral ministry, Jeremy operates and maintains two Free Lutheran Association of Pilot Supporters (FLAPS) airplanes, and assists with a Christian radio ministry. In addition to an introduction to cold-weather ops and remote village ministry, the MATA team plans to help with several specific projects .

Please pray that the MATA team will be an encouragement to those in Naknek and the other villages as they gain hands-on experience and practical training for mission aviation!



AK WORK PROJECTS

- Maintenance work on the FLAPS Cherokee Six and Cessna 175, and a lay pastor's Cessna 150
- Hangar facility maintenance
- Installation of computer and audio equipment at a Christian radio station KAKN
- Feasibility study for new radio translators in several different villages

MATA's TEAM 6
(pictured left to right)
Doug, Dave, Dary, Drew, Ethan and Amanda



A VISION FOR “INTERNSHIPS”



Mission aviation organizations seek not only rated, but *experienced* pilots and mechanics. How a newly-rated Commercial Pilot or a newly-certificated Airframe & Powerplant (A&P) mechanic is supposed to get the required level of experience is a dilemma faced by every aspiring missionary candidate. A new Commercial Pilot with around 250 hours flight time, is extremely unlikely to find a flying job which will pay him a living wage while he builds his time to the 400 or 500 hours required by mission agencies. Similarly, a new Aviation Maintenance Technician probably won't find a job to help him gain the hands-on experience he needs, because most employers would need to invest much time and expense in training the mechanic before he became profitable for the shop.

We believe this deficit, between newly-earned certifi-



Benjamin Bookman
Flight Instructor Intern



Ella Robbins
Maintenance Intern

cates and ratings and the mission -required experience levels, is the reason many hopefuls never make it to the field. MATA envisions establishing an internship program for pilots/mechanics, where we would offer them hands-on experience and practical training while subsidizing their living expenses and advanced flight training.

Please pray for MATA as we think and plan for the future training of our students!

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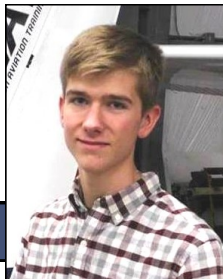
Student Corner



Congratulations to our new Private Pilots!



Daniel 12/18/16



Benjamin 12/20/16



Annamarie 2/13/17



New Instrument Student Carrie Curtis

Carrie Curtis trained at Kingdom Air Corps in Chickaloon, Alaska for her Private Pilot certificate. Kingdom Air does not train year-round, so Carrie came down for the winter to earn her Instrument Rating, then plans on returning to Alaska for her Commercial Pilot training. Her parents and younger sister are in Zambia running an orphanage.

DARY FINCK Director's Corner



As you have read, we are continuing to develop our ability to reach the lost, disciple young people, and serve God and our fellow man. 2017 is going to be a year of strategic growth for MATA, and we are looking forward to the new opportunities God will present us.

We are excited to report Daniel Jones has returned to Sonora, Mexico to continue preaching in the remote areas of the Sierra

Dutch Canadian-MK Student

Annamarie van der Meijden came out from Ontario to become a Private Pilot, the first step toward missionary pilot service. Annamarie's family is from the Netherlands, as you might have guessed from her name, and as an MK ("Missionary Kid") has lived in several countries as her father is a missionary who served with the Salvation Army and other mission agencies.

Annamarie passed her FAA check-ride on February 13th to earn her Private



Gordon Bakke cheering on Annamarie

Pilot certificate, then hustled north to British Columbia where she is just beginning an aviation maintenance course. **Please PRAY for Annamarie and all our students as they work very hard in preparations for missionary service!**

UP Coming Events



MAY Alaska Mission Trip fund-raising luncheon
Come hear and give toward supporting MATA's role in helping the Gospel spread through Native Alaska.

JULY Special MATA Missionary guest, Gracia Burnham
Be encouraged by Gracia's story of being kidnapped, held hostage and rescued, losing her husband Martin in the process, while serving as NTM missionaries in the Philippines.

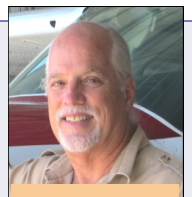
More details to come in the next newsletter!

mountains. He is seeking an aircraft that can handle rough gravel strips and also fit in a stretcher for emergency medical flights. Learn more about Daniel's ministry at:

<https://vimeo.com/167133369>

We ask for wisdom and strength to continue serving the Lord through family and student illnesses, logistics issues, staffing needs, and adverse weather. Praise God for His calling on our lives!

Dary



Daniel Jones