

Mission Aviation Training Academy



MATA USA

WWW.MATA-USA.ORG

425-231-5855

Reporting on: Mission Alaska

The MATA Flight Team

Flying to Alaska is as challenging as flying in Alaska. For the MATA flight team, comprised of Dary Finck and students Amanda Grimwood and Jonathan Robbins, this was the case as they departed August 2nd from Arlington, WA with smoke-filled skies. Weather closed in around the team more than once as they flew the coastal route up to Alaska. They stopped at Ketchikan, Sitka, and Yakutat along the way, arriving at Kako Retreat Center three days later.



“As a MATA student, my calling to serve in missions was renewed as I experienced mission aviation first hand in Alaska!” - Jonathan

“It was inspiring to meet missionaries steadfastly serving the Lord in such a lonely and spiritually dark place.” - Amanda

Landing at Kako, the team helped the camp prepare for the upcoming women’s Berry-Picking Retreat in various ways. They washed dishes, cleaned homes to include eradicating bed bugs and removing bird nests from their exterior, and performed needed repairs to buildings. Flights soon departed from Kako as the women attending the retreat needed to be flown-in from villages as far

away as the Bering Sea. The retreat for these Native women would truly be a “retreat” from the sleepless nights and continual fear of abuse coming from their own homes. Kako was a respite for them and a time to pick berries for the winter season and hear the Gospel - *the message of hope in Jesus Christ.*

Our 6-seat Cessna flew many miles across barren tundra and in bad weather carrying both people and supplies. This Alaska mission trip served not only as a training ground for Amanda and Jonathan, exposing them to real mission work, but also as a ministry trip to serve those working on the ground to advance the Gospel in rural Alaska. The team landed back in Arlington on August 19th under clear skies, ready for some rest.



John and Margaret in Marshall, AK



The precedent has been that once missionaries leave Marshall they don’t return. So without ground transportation, their own home, or a ministry agenda, John and Margaret (plus their dog, Kobe) returned to their former place of ministry where they served from 2012-14. **“Why are you back?” asked the villager. “We are here just to love you all,” replied Margaret.** And over the course of 3 weeks, the Lewises did just that, bringing the Gospel in word and deed to the hurting, lonely, and spiritually hungry. One local man actually sought them out, needing to find confirmation and encouragement for his recently placed faith in Christ. Making a difference begins by humbly reflecting the light of Christ to all, and the Lewises, by God’s grace, did just that in their return to Marshall, Alaska.



UPComing Events



Checkout FB and our website for all the latest updates and schedules.

October 13th-14th MATA at MISSIONSFEST SEATTLE *Westminster Chapel, Bellevue*
Visit <http://missionsfestseattle.org/> for more information

November 18th MATA SUPPORTER “THANK YOU” OPEN HOUSE *The MATA hangar*
SAVE THE DATE! featuring testimonies and a year-in-review of all the Lord did in 2017!



~ HELPING HANDS ~

“See the need, meet the need” can often be heard coming from Director, Dary Finck. MATA’s aim is to make itself available to meet the needs that missionary pilots and agencies face in their work, *whether that need is met on the field or at our own MATA facility.*

for Missionary Kyle Stevens
at Kako Bible Camp, Alaska
Cessna 210-5

MATA outfitted this ministry aircraft which will be used in remote western Alaska with a STOL kit, new engine monitoring and pre-heat systems, plus an annual inspection.



MATA Crew (L-R)
Gordon Bakke, Benjamin Bookman, Ella Robbins, Dary Finck



for Missionary Tom Needham
servicing in Cameroon, West Africa
Glasair Sportsman

Built from a kit and funded by a church in Oregon, this aircraft will help multiply the effectiveness of preaching the Gospel amongst the unreached in Cameroon.



(L-R) Missionaries Tom & Barb Needham and work crew: Ted Setzer, Dave Prizio, Drew Aungst (MATA staff) plus many others not pictured.



Return Service Requested

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

MISSION AVIATION TRAINING ACADEMY



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Student Corner



Private Pilot
Drew Aungst
08/11/17
with instructor,
Vic Santie, on right



Commercial Pilot
Peter de Winkle
08/16/2017
with instructor,
Benjamin Bookman, on left

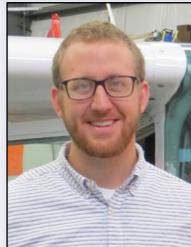


Instrument Rating
Stephen Wood
09/08/17
with instructor,
Gary Elliott, on right



Commercial Pilot
Amanda Grimwood
09/14/17
with the
FAA Designated Examiner

To achieve an aviation license or rating is no small task. Success in training comes through exercising personal discipline in the study of aeronautics and development of flight skills through constant training. So let's celebrate all the students who worked hard and achieved their goals!



Certified Flight Instructor (CFI)
Mike Schuerman
08/31/17

"I think what most impacted me in successfully completing my training was MATA's ability to help me relax and fly with confidence, combined with flexibility of schedule."
-Mike Schuerman



Please Pray

- Pray for our students as many of them need financial support and also flight & study time amidst their busy work schedules.
- Pray for the Lord's direction in the lives of **AMANDA GRIMWOOD** and **BENJAMIN BOOKMAN** as they explore what might be next for them as they finish their time at MATA.

DARY FINCK Director's Corner



As students pass through our doors en route to their future aviation ministry, some are with us for a few weeks, some a few months, and some for several years. The beauty of training at MATA is that we can take an applicant *where they are* in their flight training and move them forward towards their goal. Some examples of short-term students, some who have even left family behind to come to MATA, are: **PETER DE WINKLE**, who spent *two weeks* finishing his commercial training with aspirations to fly with MAF; **MIKE SCHUERMAN**, who spent *one month* training for his CFI with plans to work with South American Mission (SamAir) in Peru; **PASTOR JEFF BAKER**, who took *18 days* to achieve his Private License to better serve his multi-campus, multi-city church ministry back home, and **STEPHEN WOOD**, who spent *5 weeks* to achieve his Instrument Rating to better minister to Native Peoples in remote areas of Alaska. **AMANDA GRIMWOOD**, who took her first flight with us on September 5, 2014, is an example of a long-term student. She persevered and worked hard, earning her Commercial Pilot Certificate this past September 14th. We are so thankful for all our students and are blessed at MATA to have this role of training and equipping pilots for aviation ministry in service to our Lord.