

JANUARY
2010

MATA WELCOMES STEVE KING

Steve King, a graduate of Moody Bible Institute Missionary Technical program and Fresno State College, has recently joined the MATA staff. Steve comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience: a Commercial Pilot/Flight Instructor (Airplane Single and Multi-Engine Land); Ground Instructor (Basic Instrument, Advanced); and Aviation Maintenance Technician (A&P). Steve served two years as an Aviation Maintenance Technical Instructor at Long Beach City College, and 34 years there as



Steve King

Professional Pilot Training Program Professor, with most of those years as Program or Department Head.

Steve was on the board of directors of

both the California Aerospace Education Association and University Aviation Association, and committee chairman for their FAA Written Test Advisory Committee. He provided substantial editorial input to 3 major Private Pilot textbooks: Jeppesen, Machado, and Wadsworth Publications.

Steve was with our students at Oshkosh last summer, and plans to help MATA with ground instruction and technical writing. We are excited to have Steve serving with us.

GENEROUS DONATION

Last month Joe Shepherd, an old friend of Gordon Bakke, made an extremely generous donation to MATA - his Cessna 182! Gordon has known Joe for years and has done the annual inspections and maintenance for this plane. Last March Joe allowed MATA student Harlan Lloyd and instructor Jason Gibson to fly this plane on a 2,400 nautical mile cross-country trip. They flew to Tucson for United Indian Mission's Mission Aviation Day, and also visited New Tribes Mission Aviation headquarters.



Joe passing the keys to Gordon

Joe handed over the keys to his beautiful, well-maintained aircraft on December 11th to Gordon. We were all overwhelmed by this awesome

Christmas gift to MATA, with its low-time engine, like-new paint, and leather interior. MATA will certainly put this aircraft to good use training our pilots for missionary service. One practical application is MATA students can earn their High-Performance Airplane endorsement, which is required to act as Pilot-in-Command of airplanes with an engine larger than 200 hp. We also plan for advanced MATA students to use this plane for mission service in Alaska in the summers, flying village children to and from Bible camp.

MAIDEN VOYAGE

On January 7th MATA students Harlan Lloyd and Chad Dimon flew MATA's new C-182 to Sandpoint, Idaho along with instructor Gary Elliott and his wife Stacie. They visited the Quest Aircraft Co. facility to witness New Tribes Mission (NTM) accept their first Kodiak. Chad flew over and received his High-Performance Airplane endorsement, and Harlan got recurrent in this plane on the return trip.

Gary and Stacie formerly served with



1969 Cessna 182M N71333

NTM Aviation in the Philippines. Gene Ketcham, another MATA student and 3rd-generation NTM missionary, flew his C-150 over to also witness this historic event. An interesting fact about NTM's first Kodiak is that a third-grade class in Indiana raised \$375,000

for the down payment. These children have become known as the Kodiak Kids, hence the tail number N498KK. To learn more about this amazing story, go online to www.ntm.org and type "Kodiak Kids" in the search box. God can use anyone, young or old, to work for His Kingdom. Is God calling you?



NTM Aviation's Kodiak N498KK

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. II Corinthians 9:7

mata.usa@gmail.com
425-231-5855

P.O. Box 3655
17705 49th Dr. NE Hangar A
Arlington, WA 98223

Training Pilots on a Mission



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MATA Student update

As we begin the new year, we thought it might be good to give an update on pilots currently training with MATA. They are all pursuing mission aviation, while balancing responsibilities of family, work, and school. Please pray for each of them as they come to your mind.

Joe Alexander earned his Private Pilot License (PPL) at MATA in July, and is currently working on his Instrument Rating (IR). He is also in his second term at Everett Community College working on his Airframe & Powerplant (A&P) aircraft mechanic licenses. During the Christmas break, Joe spent three weeks in East Africa, where he checked out Africa Inland Mission's aviation branch (AIM Air).

Robert Boomer earned his PPL at MATA years ago and was completing his IR when a medical condition came up. That has now been resolved and he will resume his flight training.

Chad Dimon came to MATA in November with his PPL, IR, and A&P licenses, and is working on his Commercial Pilot License (CPL).

Gene Ketcham is a former New Tribes Mission church planter in Russia, who came to MATA with his PPL. He just earned his A&P licenses at Everett Community College in December and is resuming work on his IR.

Harlan Lloyd came to MATA with his PPL and A&P licenses, and has been working in aircraft maintenance and refurbishing while flying with MATA. He earned his IR at MATA in October '08, and is completing his Commercial Pilot License requirements.

Christine McDonald earned her PPL at MATA in Feb '09, and is working on her IR as her college courses and teaching music lessons allow.

April (Phillips) Erhardt came to MATA with her PPL and IR, earning her CPL here in July just weeks before being married. She plans on advanced flight training at MATA this spring.

Seth Town has his PPL and A&P licenses, and has been working in aircraft fabrication since 2005. He is working on his IR as his full-time job allows, and has helped with the MATA website.



Brandon & Rachel Penkoff
at JAARS with Helio Courier

Brandon Penkoff earned his CPL at MATA in April '07, and gained field experience in Alaska during that summer. He earned his Certified Flight Instructor rating and A&P licenses in Portland in '08-'09, and instructed at MATA Aviation Summer Camp in August '09. He returned to MATA in October for C-185 experience, then successfully completed his technical evaluation with JAARS (aviation branch of Wycliffe Bible Translators) in Waxhaw, NC in November. He and Rachel are expecting twins in May, and need to raise support prior to going to the field (possibly Cameroon or Brazil).

Director's Corner



Bakke family in Zambia June 1976

What a great Christmas: MATA gets a new staff member - Steve King, and a new airplane - a Cessna 182!

In the last two letters we mentioned my wife Elaine's colon cancer treatments and surgery. At

her 3-month, post-surgery checkup in December, all the lab work showed her blood in normal ranges and NO cancer! We praise the Lord for that. We also thank you for all your prayers, which we really appreciated. Her energy level and strength are still coming back to normal.

One of the most important events on our MATA calendar is our 7pm Saturday night Bible study. MATA Flight Instructor Allen Koopman is currently leading us in an excellent study in the book of Genesis. You are most welcome to join us at the MATA hangar at the Arlington Airport for this weekly event.

We had Jeremy and Lacey Crowell with us at Thanksgiving time. They had just completed an internship at Bristol Bay, Alaska at the Free Lutheran Church in the towns of Naknek and South Naknek, which is just across the river. Jeremy was able to use the Cessna 175 on which we had changed the engine and prop here at

MATA. Jeremy and Lacey are now in Loveland, Colorado for the 2nd half of this internship. In May, Jeremy, who is now a MATA Board member, will graduate from the Free Lutheran Church Seminary in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Summer plans: Lord willing we plan to have Gary take 1 or 2 students with him to Alaska to Kako Retreat Center, possibly leaving the last week of May. I would like to be in Zambia, Africa in August for the 100th anniversary of the Evangelical Church in Zambia, the church of which Elaine and I were a part for 22 years.

February 1976



Elaine going with Gordon to a village church