

# Mission Aviation Training Academy

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May 2011

## BACK TO THE YUKON!

Gordon Bakke and Chad Dimon left for Alaska on May 23rd in our Cessna 182, which accumulated about 160 hours last summer serving Native Americans in Alaska. Gordon and Chad will be flying this plane at Kako Retreat Center during the busy summer Bible camp season. Chad earned his Commercial Pilot rating with MATA instructor Gary Elliott last

summer, and his Multi-engine rating recently, but this will be his first experience flying in "field conditions." This will be Gordon's 9th year flying at Kako, and Christine McDonalds 4th summer as girls camp counselor.



Camp produces smiling faces

## Aircraft Upgrades

Many of you are familiar with GPS systems mounted in cars and boats, or handheld units carried by hikers and backpackers. In the aviation world, higher-end units meeting stringent FAA specifications may be used for aerial navigation and for flying instrument approaches into airports with very low cloud cover and poor visibility. MATA just upgraded its retractable-landing-gear Cessna 182, donated in December, with a Garmin 430W, giving our aircraft this capability.

Our fixed-gear Cessna 182, which will serve at Kako Retreat Center all summer, was just outfitted with larger tires, a Garmin 495 GPSMap

mounted in the instrument panel, and a second VHF communications radio. Although this GPS unit does not give instrument approach capability, these upgrades will enhance safety while flying in the Alaskan wilderness. Additionally, Assistant



Chief of Maintenance Dary Finck installed an extended baggage com-

partment in this aircraft, which will allow carriage of the substantial survival gear required by Alaskan law without impinging on passenger compartment space. These upgrades were made possible through a generous gift from Emmanuel Baptist Church of Mt. Vernon, Washington, and a matching grant from Mustard Seed Foundation.



John Lewis and Chad Dimon getting the plane ready for Alaska

## MATA Grad Delivers Baby!

Bryan Eygabroad trained at MATA and serves with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) flying a Cessna 206



in Lesotho, Africa. Last month Bryan had just started the engine to fly a pregnant Besotho woman to the hospital when she started yelling. He shut down the engine and pulled on surgical gloves just in time to **catch the baby!** We did not teach him **that** at MATA.

Follow Bryan at:  
<http://www.maf.org/eygabroad>

## MATathon 2011

**Saturday June 4th is MATA's 10th annual MATathon fundraiser, where a 6-mile run around the airport trail produces funds for our Alaska ministry. Support MATA's ministry to Alaska through the enclosed envelope.**



A ride in the T-6 "Texan" is the Grand Prize for MATathon

LET NO ONE SEEK HIS OWN, BUT EACH ONE THE OTHER'S WELL-BEING.

1 COR 10:24

MATA NEEDS MONTHLY SUPPORTERS

WILL YOU BE ONE?

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## Returned Summer Campers

Joe Noble, who attended MATA's Aviation Summer camp in 2009, returned to MATA from Canada to begin training for his Private Pilot license. Joe's dad grew up on a cattle ranch near Yakima, Washington, and now is a missionary with his family in isolated areas of North-Central British Columbia. The family conducts "Cowboy Church" at the rodeos, and ministers at First Nation reservations and some remote cattle ranches. Joe's dad is a pilot and uses his Piper Super Cub on wheels, skis, or floats, as the season and location dic-

tate. They have recently purchased a Cessna 172 to help get around in such a large province. Joe has a heart for this ministry and often goes with his dad, so after getting his license he will help with the flying and also be able to go out by himself. Joe has worked in logging camps saving for his flight training. The generous gift of a lady living in a Seattle-area retirement home will also help finance his training.

Jacqui Grim attended our summer camp in 2008, and made her first solo flight at MATA in February, but the poor spring weather has

hindered progress toward her Private Pilot license. Jake Buce, another 2008 camper, accomplished much of his Private Pilot training requirements last summer, and plans to return and earn his Private Pilot license when he turns 17. in July.



Joe & camp instructor Brandon Penkoff

## Director's Corner



MATA Board  
Dary, Myron, Gordon, Gary, Rob, Cal, and Jeremy

Last year we featured MATA Board member Rob Marvin and his wife Grace. They served in an international students ministry for many years. In April, Grace passed away after several months of not being well. Our prayers and sympathy continue for Rob and family.

A few days before our MATA Board meeting on May 3rd, MATA graduate and Board member Jeremy Crowell and wife Lacey welcomed

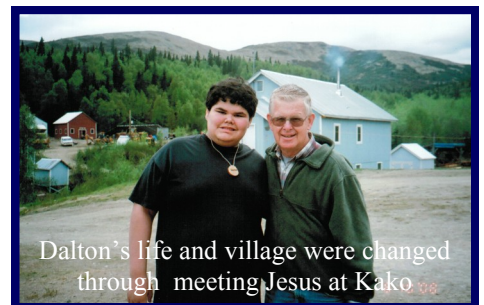
Malachi Michael. Malachi was born here in the Arlington Hospital. Jeremy and Lacey live in Naknek, Alaska and use an airplane to minister to folks living in the villages around Bristol Bay.

Folks ask me, "Why do you go to Alaska?" Yes it is a lot of flying to get there. Western Alaska has no roads and most of the kids have no hope. So we use the airplanes to fly to the villages and then bring the kids to Bible camp at Kako Retreat Center. There



Malachi Michael 7lbs 8 oz.

they learn about Jesus and many of them receive Him into their lives as their Savior. Their



Dalton's life and village were changed through meeting Jesus at Kako

lives are changed. With Christ in their hearts, they have a hope for the future, and help in working through difficult situations in their villages. We need to pray for these kids and you can help with that.

Regular monthly gifts to MATA help us train pilots like Chad and Jeremy to serve the Lord in these difficult places. Your special gifts help us with this Alaska outreach. His blessings on you and thank you for your prayers and support.

**Gordon Bakke**