

# Mission Aviation Training Academy

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## WINTER DIDN'T STOP MATA STUDENTS

**MATAthon**  
June 2nd  
Visit our web-  
site for more  
details

“...PRESENT  
YOURSELVES  
TO GOD AS  
THOSE  
ALIVE FROM  
THE DEAD,  
AND YOUR  
MEMBERS AS  
INSTRU-  
MENTS OF  
RIGHTEOUS-  
NESS TO  
GOD.”

ROMANS  
6:13B

Spring has finally come to the North-west and we at MATA are happy to see the sun and better flying weather. Although we had some very bad weather during the winter months, several students earned ratings. **Magnum Swig-**



**gart** began his flight training at MATA in October while home on furlough from South Sudan. During his few months stateside his goals were to get married and get his Private Pilot certificate. No small task, either one! Both required much preparation, but Magnum accomplished both and has returned to South Sudan with his new bride Danica to coordinate ministries of two mission organizations. This young couple has some special gifts and we sense God using them for His kingdom purposes there in South Sudan. We look forward to helping Magnum with more flight ratings when he is stateside again.



**Chad Dimon** worked with MATA instructor Gary Elliott to earn his Certified Flight Instructor rating in February. MATA staff members Myron Davis and Dary Finck have mentored Chad in his maintenance skills, and Chad continues to gain flight and maintenance experience while working for Regal Air at nearby Paine Field. He and his wife Jamie, who is a nurse, are seeking the Lord's timing and direction as to where they might serve.

**Jonathan Miller**, who grew up in Amsterdam where his parents served with YWAM, completed his Instrument Rating in November and added a high-performance endorsement this winter. He just earned his Commercial Pilot certificate on April 12th! Jonathan will continue his advanced flight training and gain field experience in Alaska this summer. He also hopes to share his passion, 'Answers in Genesis' with the campers, as he is a gifted speaker. He and Gary plan to depart on May 21st in

MATA's Cessna 182 for Kako Retreat Center in the Yukon Delta. Flying to Alaska allows MATA pilots to cross international borders, navigate over some of the roughest terrain, and make critical decisions about weather over the two-day journey. This is the third consecutive summer MATA students have made the trip in N71333. Flying for the Bible camps gives our students flight experience in field conditions while actually serving in a real and vital aviation ministry.



### TESTIMONIAL...

MATA is all about training pilots for mission aviation. Here is what **Mark Howard** had to say:

“Thanks to MATA, I was able to complete my Commercial Pilot rating in just a few weeks...a huge gift of time to a full-time pastor, husband, and father. They have played a critical role in helping prepare me to serve Christ through aviation. Not only was the aviation training excellent, but the family atmosphere of the whole staff truly made my training a warm and welcoming experience. MATA provided a training experience no one else could have provided for me.”

The MATA staff is thankful to be vessels for the Master's use, although we couldn't serve without your support! THANK YOU!!!

## JAY AND KATRINA REACH AFRICA

**Jay and Katrina Erickson** and their two young girls left February 20th for Chitokoloki Hospital on the banks of the Zambezi river, 400 miles upstream of Victoria Falls. Once in Africa Jay had to get his Zambia Pilot certificate and a flight check-out. It didn't take long and Jay was flying his first emergency flight, a woman who suffered critical injuries from an automobile accident. The Cessna 206 Jay is flying provides transportation to patients and staff from three satellite clinics plus brings volunteer professionals to the 200-bed hos-

pital. Safe, speedy air travel from these treacherous, remote locations saves lives. We are thankful the Ericksons followed God's call to fill this great need. You can keep up with what is happening by visiting this website <http://www.missionflying.com>



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## MATA'S NEW LOOK, NEW STUDENTS

MATA's redesigned website and new Facebook page are bringing new students to MATA. Pastor **Joel Johnson** found us on the web when he and his family were relocating to Arlington to fill a pastorate position.

**Ian Rojas**, a Private Pilot who earned his aircraft mechanic license at Moody Aviation, discovered MATA and plans to finish his flight training with us.

**Jeff Sargent**, who attended MATA's 2011 Aviation Summer Camp, plans to fit in his Private Pilot training with MATA this summer before heading off to college in the fall.

**Brandon Rodstol** received his Private Pilot certificate during MATA's early days. After serving as a youth minister in Wenatchee, he is training at MATA again to earn his other flight ratings and follow God's call into mission aviation.

**Justin Reeves** began his instrument training at MATA after meeting MATA graduates in Bellingham. Justin is very focused on missions and aviation, and is eager to learn more about various aviation organizations and their ministries as he continues flight training.

## N3711F GETTING NEW ENGINE



MATA's Cessna 172 N3711F has served faithfully for seven years as our main trainer. The engine has reached the manufacturer's recommended time before overhaul (TBO),

and we have decided to replace it as a safety precaution, although FAA regulations do not require replacement at this time. Gordon has ordered a replacement engine which will arrive sometime in early May. Our MATA maintenance guys Gordon, Myron, and Dary will remove the old engine and install the new one. This will be much faster than sending the old engine to a factory for overhaul, and allow for a quick swap during a lull in the flight training schedule.

## Director's Corner

Prayer letters are what we as missionaries write. Sometimes we have praise items to share as well as petitions to bring before our Lord who has told us to ask. He also said "you have not because you ask not," so please join with us and pray to the "Lord of the Harvest" that we get a great harvest this summer. We are so thankful for all the folks the Lord has given to assist us in this ministry of helping to reach people with the great news about Jesus Christ in the areas of the world that are hard to reach. These are places where the airplane is often the only means of transportation. It is exciting to see how the Lord works to provide

students, airplanes, and funds to keep everything going. Students only pay for the flight costs of the airplane, and not overhead expenses including insurance, hangar rent, utilities, office equipment and supplies, and some major aircraft maintenance. Your donations help cover this difference and make it possible to have the airplane in condition for safe flight when the students need to fly. Your gifts help our students complete their training without having a debt to pay off before they can go to the mission field.

Again this year we will take our Cessna 182 to Kako Retreat Center in Western Alaska. I have been working to coordinate the schedule for the pilots who will be going there to fly the two camp airplanes

as well as MATA's plane.

Flying to Alaska and bringing kids and families from all over the Yukon Delta to Bible camp takes lots of aviation fuel. Would you like to help buy avgas needed to make these flights? Many of the kids and some adults I have flown from their villages to Bible camp at Kako receive Jesus into their heart when they hear the gospel message. To see the joy expressed by these kids after a week of camp is very special and makes the expense, time, and effort all worth while. Thank you and God bless you for your support.



**Gordon Bakke**

Executive Director