



MISSION AVIATION TRAINING ACADEMY

425-231-5855
www.mata-usa.org

MATA USA Find us on: facebook.

Celebrating 20 years of God's Faithfulness



Over 150 people gathered December 1st to celebrate twenty years of God's faithfulness to MATA. What had humble beginnings in the God-led vision to start MATA by (the late) Mike and Lori Crowell, has become an organization that has trained missionary pilots and mechanics who serve in spreading the Gospel around the globe. The training of these missionary pilots is no small endeavor, and takes a committed staff, resources, and the faithful prayers and financial contributions from you - *our team of supporters*. As Gary Elliott, Chief Pilot, remarked at the 20th anniversary dinner, "The ministry here is not possible without you." *And because of that we offer you, once again, our sincere and humble thanks!*

"As I think of MATA over the years, I'm just struck by God's faithfulness!"

- Jeremy Crowell
(missionary, pastor, and pilot/mechanic)

Winter Maintenance Trip to Naknek, Alaska



To Alaska: (L-R) Lori Willard, Dary (Director) & Anna Finck, Amy & Nathan Harmer

Please pray for this team as they travel and work alongside Lori's son, Jeremy Crowell and wife, Lacey who are FLAPS missionaries. For the Harmer family, this trip will provide exposure to the challenges of serving in Alaska. It will also be a training trip for Nathan, as a maintenance intern and MATA flight student, in the specific areas of aviation maintenance and cold weather flight operations. This visit to Naknek will also allow the team opportunities to encourage the local church and Native Alaskan believers.

MATA Students Serve in Alaska

Vitaliy Nikishin served over Christmas for one week at Kako Retreat Center in western Alaska. Vitaliy offered much needed physical help (e.g. lots of wood cutting) and encouragement to Director Jonathan Penz and his wife, Sharon.

Dave Perkins, a new Private Pilot (see back page), is in Alaska on a short-term trip serving alongside the KAKN radio ministry in Naknek. Dave has tremendous technical ability in this area and is helping repair and establish new radio towers and receivers in villages so they can receive Christian broadcasts where little to no Christian witness exists.

UPComing ...



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

- Feb. 2-9** MATA MISSION TRIP TO ALASKA MATA folks will travel to Naknek, AK to assist in the aviation ministry of FLAPS missionary, Jeremy Crowell.
- Feb. 14-17** 1ST BAPTIST CHURCH (ARLINGTON, WA) MISSIONS CONFERENCE MATA will have a booth and presentation time at the conference.
- Apr. 25-27** CHRISTIAN HERITAGE HOMESCHOOL CONFERENCE (WA) MATA will have a booth to mobilize summer campers and future workers for the field.

FLIGHT TIME RECAP FOR 2018

We praise the Lord each year for not just the training hours flown, which translate into student progress made, but for the record of safety in the MATA flight program.

TOTAL HOURS FLOWN: 1350.8 flight hours

To include...

Aviation Summer Camp for TEENS

77.9 flight hours

Eighteen campers not only experienced flight but were introduced to mission aviation as a way to serve the Lord with their lives.

Mission Alaska

KAKO WOMEN'S RETREAT
62.2 flight hours

Two MATA students received invaluable training and missions experience flying to and from Alaska along with serving Native Alaskans in a remote Bible Camp context.

More Student News!

In a very uncommon sort of way, a local area aviation maintenance facility offered three of our flight students, **Nathan, Melody** and **Vitaliy**, mechanic apprenticeship internships. To be a missionary pilot, most mission agencies also require a potential candidate to become an airframe and powerplant (A&P) mechanic. As an alternative to attending a usually costly aviation technician school, the FAA says an individual can have 30 months of practical experience working on airframes and powerplants (engines) to be able to test for the A&P license. So, for these three students to gain experience while working towards their A&P certificate and *get paid in the process* is a huge blessing for them regarding cost and time savings while preparing for the mission field!



Nathan, Vitaliy and Melody

Registration is now OPEN!

Aviation Summer Camp for TEENS

JULY 21ST-26TH, 2019

For more information and an application, visit:
www.mata-usa.org/summer-aviation-camp/

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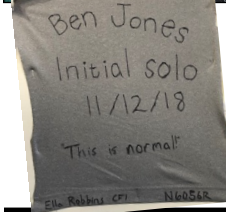
Return Service Requested

STUDENT Corner

Initial SOLO



Ben, 11/12/18



After cutting out the back of Ben's T-shirt after his solo (as part of aviation tradition), we awarded him with a brand-new MATA one. *Congrats!*

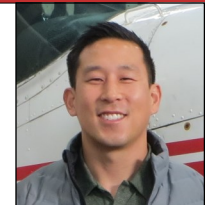
Tailwheel Endorsement



Donald, 10/23/18



Joe, 11/08/18



John, 11/17/18

The tailwheel endorsement was put into effect by the FAA in April 1991. Most traditional missionary aircraft were tailwheel and many are still used in various places on the mission field today. *Congrats* to these students on learning the fine art of taxiing, taking off, and landing a tailwheel aircraft!



MATA students desire to use aviation skills in Kingdom-advancing work. They come young and old(er), most with no real overseas ministry experience, and some come off the field for additional training before returning to serve. They all work hard and for this reason we praise the Lord for all their accomplishments.

Please pray that all our students would stay focused on the Lord and His call on their lives through all the rigors of training that they experience. Thank you!

Multi-Engine Rating



Brandon, 9/28/18

Certified Flight Instructor



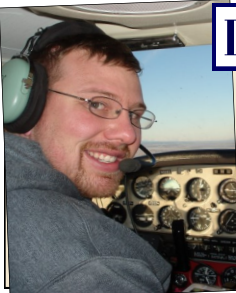
Melody, 11/17/18

Private Pilot Certificate



Dave, 1/14/19

Director's Corner DARY FINCK



As MATA continues it's 21st year of operation we know there is still more to do, more students to train, more people to reach with the Gospel, and given the global demand for trained missionaries in all departments we know God has required us to prepare people for His purposes. It is your faithful partnership, financially and prayerfully, which permits MATA's continued training and equipping pilots for missionary service. *Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to serve God and the missionary community.*