

# MATA

MISSION AVIATION TRAINING ACADEMY

425-231-5855

[www.mata-usa.org](http://www.mata-usa.org)

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## WE WERE THAT CLOSE

*... the timely blessing of a maintenance issue*

We were all excited at the reality of finally being able to deliver Aeronca Champ N2133E to missionary Hope Swanson in Alaska. This aircraft, which was purchased through the 2020 Alaska fundraiser, was “that close” to departing for Alaska with MATA Board member Scott Quist at the controls.

“After a successful test flight the day prior, I taxied the beautiful little Champ away from the MATA hangar in Arlington for departure to Alaska,” Scott recalled. “Before taking flight I went through the normal engine checks and noticed a significant abnormality.”

That abnormality led to three days of troubleshooting by the MATA maintenance crew, ultimately requiring some major engine components to be sent out for overhaul.

So, the “timely blessing” of it all? With Canada, customs clearance, endless miles of wilderness, and minimal maintenance options ahead of Scott on the flight, he commented, “the delay was disappointing to say the least but it was also a tremendous blessing. The mechanical issue could not have surfaced at a better time or place, on the ground and close to MATA resources. In the end it is clear that the Lord’s hand was with us all.”

## Construction Begins!

After many unanticipated delays we are excited to announce that construction has begun on the new classrooms! Staff offices have been moved to allow the front entrance and welcome area of our facility to accommodate all the work.

*A humble “thank you!” to everyone who contributed toward this project.* We are excited about this expansion project which will increase our potential for training and sending more pilots to the mission field in the future!



The front office and entrance



The welcome desk area where Stacie sat



Classrooms being constructed over front office

Scott pre-flights N2133E.



Jeremy Crowell (on left) delivered a Cherokee 180, along with owner Dale Peters, to Alaska from MATA. Dale’s aircraft provided invaluable flight and maintenance training for MATA intern Justin Vaughan.

## MATA Staff Moving Toward Alaska Ministry

John and Margaret Lewis have been asked to return to Alaska as full-time missionaries to the village of Marshall. They last served full-time in Marshall from 2012-2014. They have visited there many times since through the Alaska ministry of MATA.

This open door to return to Marshall came as a result of ChangePoint Church (in Anchorage) receiving the village church, teen center, and 2 homes through a donation. Having the “structures” in hand, they sought a missionary couple who knew and loved the people of Marshall to live among them. John and Margaret saw the Lord’s hand in this opportunity and plan to return by the end of this summer. **The Lewises need much in the way of prayer and financial support for this endeavor to be a light for Christ in the darkness of the village.** Contact them to partner with them in this ministry:

[gramma\\_lewis@hotmail.com](mailto:gramma_lewis@hotmail.com) • Margaret 360-322-0765 • John 907-679-2111



## Ministry Events

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

July 25-30

**Aviation Summer Camp, Arlington, WA**

Pray for this camp as it is already booked this year with 18 campers!

Learn more at: [www.mata-usa.org](http://www.mata-usa.org)

## Introducing MATA Volunteers - Valuable Assets

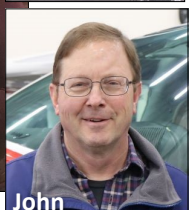
We are blessed at MATA to have volunteers with key skill sets to help out our program. **Jim and Margaret Nichols** bring to MATA servants’ hearts along with Jim’s experience in aviation as a Marine and recently building his own plane. **Steve Irwin** is a certified electrician offering his expertise for the installation of all the wiring for our classroom expansion project. **John Coussens** is a retired Boeing engineer, pilot, and A&P mechanic and has many years of experience rebuilding (and flying) antique aircraft.



Jim & Margaret



Steve



John





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## STUDENT NEWS

CFI/II • FEB 27<sup>TH</sup> & 28<sup>TH</sup>



**Matthew Lynch** (with wife Kylie and daughter) travelled to South Dakota to take his Certified Flight Instructor and CFI Instrument check-rides, and passed both back-to-back! The Lynch family is now in pre-field preparations to serve in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with MAF.

A&P Mechanics • MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>



**Benjamin and Ella Bookman** just completed their written, oral, and practical exams, officially making them FAA A&P (Airframe and Power-plant) mechanics. They both also hold flight instructor certificates and were MATA students, currently serving as interns as they prepare for the field.

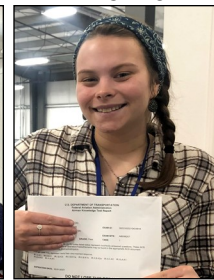
Written Exam Passes!

Commercial  
DEC 11<sup>TH</sup>



**Justin Vaughan and Madelyn Allovio** both passed their written exams, which is a necessary step towards achieving any particular flight rating. FAA written exams require a lot of dedicated study and are usually 50-100 questions long. *Please pray for other students who are studying hard to take flight and maintenance written exams soon: Matt Condon, Nate Mills, Melody Coleman, Vitaliy Nikishin, and former MATA student Michelle Craig.*

Instrument  
MARCH 16<sup>TH</sup>



Instrument Rating • MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup>



**Dave Perkins** (with Instructor Gary Elliott) passed the oral exam portion of his check-ride only to have to wait several days for weather to be favorable for the flight portion. *The patience paid off!* Dave lives locally but will use his flight skills as he serves through short-term mission trips maintaining KAKN, a Christian radio station which proclaims the Gospel to the villages of Alaska.



MATA students **Matt Condon** and **Nate Mills** flew a 25-hour cross-country adventure to San Diego and back in March. They gained invaluable experience as they planned, navigated, and exercised their decision-making skills along the journey.



Due to COVID delays, **the Brock Welge family** is hoping their sea container leaves the "dock" at MATA in April for their place of service with PMA (Pacific Mission Aviation), on the island of Palau. MATA staff helped Brock, who is a former MATA student, load the container. The Welges themselves also have rescheduled flights to depart for Palau this April. *Please keep this family in prayer as they "live in transition" waiting for an open door to leave for the field.*

**Current MATA student Annamarie Van Der Meijden** worked as an MAF Canada volunteer in Uganda this past year and was featured on the front cover and in a feature article in their Fall 2020 issue of "Flying For Life."

Read all about it on their website: [www.mafc.org/flyingforlife](http://www.mafc.org/flyingforlife)

