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## ALASKA WINTER MAINTENANCE TRIP ... and more.

There are three missionary aircraft with FLAPS (Free Lutheran Association of Pilot Supporters) located in Naknek, Alaska, and minimal staff to keep them in "airworthy shape" for ministry flights. In February, **Jeremy Crowell** and family, who were former missionaries in Naknek, took a MATA team (pictured right)



(l-r) Lacey and Jeremy Crowell (son Malachi not pictured), Zach Kupser, Ken and Sydney Huntsinger

to assist **Josh Fish** (missionary and MATA alum) to perform maintenance on the FLAPS aircraft and reconnect in the community. Jeremy often stated that the one week of work by the MATA team helps save six weeks of work by a single mechanic. This trip was no different. The team accomplished annual inspections on two aircraft and much needed repairs to aircraft, along with organizing aircraft records. They also replaced critical cables that open and close the hangar door.

**Lacey** and **Sydney**, helped prepare meals for the team and reconnect with old friends in the community. Jeremy had the opportunity to preach several times and encourage the local



Zach and Ken  
in the hangar

"Zach, we really love being with you ...  
when will you move out here?"  
- Naknek teen

church. And **Zach**, who had served on short-term Vacation Bible School teams in the past in Naknek, got to reconnect with teens he had ministered to in 2023. When the teens heard Zach was in town, they sought him out and spent time with him through a game night. This had a huge impact on Zach.

*Thank you for supporting and praying for our Alaska ministry and training, which really impact student development!*

*You're Invited!*

## ANNUAL Thank You Luncheon SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025

At the MATA Facility, 11:30- 2:30PM

Arlington Municipal Airport, 19002 59th Dr. NE, Arlington, WA

**Please RSVP** by calling the MATA office: **360-435-8179**

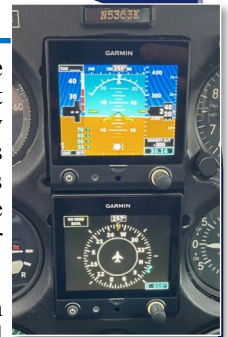
## Looking ahead: 2025 Ministry Events

Check out Facebook, Instagram, and our website for the latest updates and schedules.

- April 25-26** **Christian Heritage Homeschool Conference**, Everett, WA  
MATA has had a presence at this conference for over 20 years in an effort to inspire and mobilize homeschoolers towards the mission field and mission aviation.
- May 3** **Annual Thank You Luncheon**, MATA Facility, Arlington, WA  
We want to celebrate your generosity and faithful support of MATA! *Please see more details above.*
- July 20-25** **Mission Aviation Summer Camp**, MATA Facility, Arlington, WA  
Our annual summer camp introduces teens (14-18 years old) to the worlds of flight and mission aviation. *This year's camp is full with campers from 9 different states!*

## UPGRADES AND EXPANSION

We are in the process of **upgrading the avionics** in our fleet of aircraft. Most aircraft flying on the mission field today have electronically advanced avionics systems and are classified by the FAA as Technically Advanced Aircraft (TAA). We are upgrading our fleet to better prepare our students for flying TAA aircraft on the field.



MATA has Board approval to purchase an 8000 sq. ft. building just down the road from our current hangar. **The need for expansion** is due to the reality that we have outgrown our current "footprint" for student classrooms, office and administrative space, and gathering space for programs like our Bible study. Although it will still need substantial renovation work, we are excited as God clearly has opened the door to purchase this building.

**If you would like to give toward either of these projects**, please visit the "Donate" tab the MATA website. *Thank you!*

### The new MATA annex building



**MATA is now 141!**

*See p.2 to learn more*

## MATA BOARD UPDATE

The MATA Board of Directors in March elected **Jim Nichols** as Chairman to serve a 2-year term. Jim served as a MATA volunteer for many years and joined the Board in March 2024. Jim served 30 years in the Marines and retired as a Marine Air Group Commander at NAS Whidbey Island.



Jim Nichols

To learn more about Jim and the rest of the MATA Board and staff, visit our website under "About Us."



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## Student Report



Gary Elliott, Director of Flight Standards and Curriculum, sharing the Part 141 good news at the MATA Bible study.

### MATA is now a Part 141 Pilot School!

On January 23rd 2025 MATA was certified as an FAA Part 141 Pilot School, after completing 24 months as a Part 141 Provisional Pilot School. This new status will allow MATA to apply for Department of Homeland Security approval to offer flight training for international students. Our mission will continue to be equipping and training evangelical Christian pilots for mission aviation ministry, and we hope to be able soon to offer pilot training to mission-bound Christians from outside the U.S.A., in response to the requests from mission agencies needing national pilot/mechanics in their respective countries.

### Congratulations on MATA Part 141 Courses Completed!

### MISSION FIELD PREP

**Dustin Driedger** and his family are from the Edmonton, Alberta (Canada) area. Dustin is a candidate with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF-Canada) who needed additional field prep work before heading overseas to be seconded to Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA). In Canada, Dustin flew many years as a King Air (a twin turboprop) pilot but needed training to transition into a Cessna U206. MATA was delighted to work with him, and Dustin even got to train with fellow MAF missionary and MATA flight instructor, **Bryan Eygabroad**.



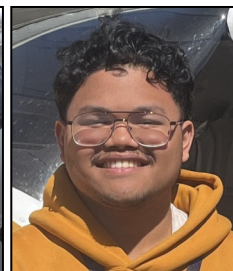
DUSTIN DRIEDGER



INSTRUCTOR VIC WITH DONALD BELFILS



CASEY UNDERWOOD WITH INSTRUCTOR JEREMY



TIO TOBING

- **Jan. 20th** - **Don Belfils**, MATA flight instructor, completed the Part 141 Tailwheel Transition course for his tailwheel training. Don is also enrolled in the Certified Flight Instructor, Instrument (CFII) course.
- **Jan. 27th** - **Casey Underwood** completed the Part 141 Instrument course and then earned his Instrument-Airplane rating by passing the FAA checkride. Casey currently serves on the maintenance team and will soon begin the Commercial Pilot course.
- **Feb. 12th** - **Tio Tobing** completed the Part 141 Private Pilot course and then passed his Private Pilot checkride. Tio is currently enrolled in the Instrument course.

### Please pray for our students!

In addition to those listed above, please pray for others enrolled as Part 141 students that they would be diligent in studies, grow in their flight skills, and find encouragement to persevere in their long journey towards serving the Lord in aviation.

**Robyn Heineken** - finishing up her Part 141 Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) course

**Ken Huntsinger** - enrolled in the Part 141 Instrument course

**Ben Impola** - enrolled in the Part 141 Private Pilot course