



MISSION AVIATION TRAINING ACADEMY

December 2025

360-435-8179 • www.mata-usa.org

THE NEW MATA ANNEX BUILDING FUND UPDATE

CONSIDER AN END-OF-YEAR DONATION TO HELP MOVE MATA FORWARD IN 2026!

The new MATA annex renovations are now underway, thanks to your generous gifts! Since the last newsletter in September, you have already given \$100,000 towards this project, and MATA humbly thanks you!

The current phase we are in with renovations is the Type 1 Architecturals (to comply with fire codes). Following this, next steps, which are now funded, include sewer hookup and new windows.

To complete this project, we need to meet the funding goal of \$400,000 for the following work:

- New exterior siding
- Paint Interior
- Update all plumbing
- New flooring
- New HVAC
- Pave parking lot
- New insulation and wallboard

The Annex will provide more classroom and office space, expanding our capabilities in equipping and training evangelical Christian pilots for aviation ministry. This extra space is needed for MATA to receive international students, for which we hope to obtain approval from the Department of Homeland Security in 2026. We are trusting the Lord with each step forward in the renovations, and are graciously asking you to join us financially and in prayer with this important project. *Did you know MATA can receive stocks, bonds, and planned giving donations?* Please call our office to learn more as we approach the end of 2025 and look forward to an exciting 2026! *Thank you!*

Visit the www.mata-usa.org homepage and click the "Building Project" button to learn more and donate.



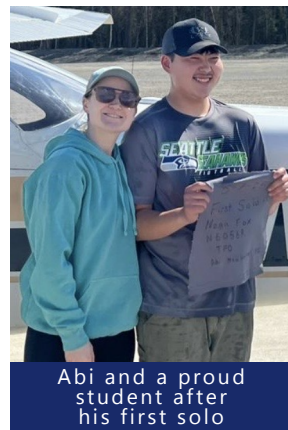
Casey Underwood,
MATA student,
working at the Annex

N6056R ALASKA UPDATE

MATA aircraft N6056R is serving the work and ministry of Tanalian Leadership Center's Vocational Training and Career Development Program in Port Alsworth, Alaska. N6056R is on loan to **Matt and Abi McWhorter**, who are missionary pilot-mechanics. Abi is also a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI).



Matt working on 56R's
engine (under a heat
blanket)



Abi and a proud
student after
his first solo

"Since 56R arrived at Tanalian Leadership Center in September of 2023, it has helped solo two students, flown several outreach trips to other remote villages, as well as trips to the road system for doctors' appointments and supply runs, and even helped in a search and rescue mission. Overall, it has been an invaluable piece of our ministry with the youth and young adults of remote Alaska." - Abi McWhorter

WELCOME TO NEW STAFFER

TIM FINNERON

Tim will fill the role of Annual Giving Fund Manager at MATA. He is a dual US/UK citizen, and his flying career is extensive to include service in the RAF and in corporate aviation. Tim is certified in flying both airplanes and helicopters.



LOOKING AHEAD: 2026 MINISTRY EVENTS

February 2026

Mission Aviation Summer Camp Application Period Opens

Applications come online February 1st for MATA's 2026 summer camp. There are slots for only 18 campers. Visit www.mata-usa.org and click on "Activities" to learn more.

February 2026

Alaska Winter Mission Trip

MATA will take a maintenance team with students to Naknek, Alaska, to assist the ministry of FLAPS (Free Lutheran Association of Pilot Supporters) in performing critical maintenance on their fleet.

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



Scan to visit
the MATA website!



This contribution is made with the understanding that Mission Aviation Training Academy (MATA) has complete control and administration over the use of the donated funds. No goods or services were given or provided for this donation. 501(c)3 Tax ID: 91-1932500



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STUDENT REPORT CONGRATULATIONS!



Eddie Hooke



Tio Tobing



Hannah Kirkman



Zach Kupser with instructors
Jeremy and Vic

Passed FAA Knowledge Tests:

Eddie Hooke – Fundamentals of Instructing (10/20)
Tio Tobing – Commercial Pilot (11/4)
Hannah Kirkman - Private Pilot (11/11)

Tailwheel Course

Completion and Endorsement:
Zach Kupser (10/29)

*Pray for focus and perseverance
for all our students as they move towards
the final stages of completing their courses.*



Zach assisting the
unloading of a patient

► MATA STUDENTS RETURN FROM PNG ◀



The MATA maintenance team of **Doug Nunziato**, Director of Maintenance, and students **Zach Kupser** and **Ken Huntsinger** traveled to Papua New Guinea (PNG) to assist in the ministry of Samaritan Aviation (SA) www.samaritanaviation.org. The primary focus of the maintenance work was on cleaning, treating, and painting dozens of areas of corrosion on their Cessna 206 amphibian aircraft. Often grueling and monotonous work in the heat and humidity, the team persevered and successfully completed the project, applying the final coat of paint on the last day before returning home. The work the MATA team accomplished saved months of labor for the SA maintenance crew, which was a huge blessing for their team and ministry.

“Serving in PNG gave me a vision for what aviation can be used for in a practical way on the mission field and how it’s still needed.” – Ken
To see a video recap from the PNG trip, please visit the MATA website home page and click on the link, “Latest News: Video of PNG Ministry Trip.”

MATA BIBLE STUDY

This year MATA students and their families, with staff and volunteers, have been studying through 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John. Bible studies occur over the course of 12 weeks in the Fall and Spring as a means of discipling in the Word and providing fellowship for the MATA “family.” This time also provides an opportunity to hear from alumni and missionaries traveling through the area, who share about the joys and challenges in their aviation ministry on the field.