

Summer 2023 Newsletter



THE COST OF FLIGHT TRAINING

Flight training can be a costly endeavor, and Great Basin Aviation recognizes that it's not a path to get rich, as profit margins for flight schools are often thin. The expenses stem from various factors, including fuel and aircraft maintenance, instructor fees, insurance, regulatory compliance, and infrastructure requirements. To ensure safety and quality training, flight schools need to invest in well-maintained aircraft and qualified instructors.

Moreover, liability considerations in flight training contribute to the high costs, with a strong emphasis on risk management and safety measures. The duration of flight training also affects expenses, as the national average for solo flight hours is 25 to 30 hours, while the average for a Private Pilot Certificate is 65 to 80 hours.

In addition to flight school-related costs, aspiring pilots must also consider other expenses like checkride fees (starting at \$750), ground school, knowledge tests, medical exams, and renter's insurance. Despite the financial investment, flight training is a valuable pursuit for those passionate about aviation, offering exciting career opportunities and personal growth in the aviation industry.

Despite the expense, the investment in flight training is often deemed worthwhile by aspiring pilots due to the numerous benefits it offers. The passion and fulfillment derived from flying an aircraft cannot be understated, making the financial commitment a small price to pay for following one's dreams. Flight training opens doors to various career opportunities within the aviation industry, whether it be as a commercial pilot, flight instructor, or corporate pilot. Additionally, the journey of flight training fosters personal growth, teaching discipline, focus, and resilience. The aviation community provides excellent networking opportunities and a sense of belonging among like-minded individuals who share a common passion for aviation. Ultimately, earning a pilot's license and experiencing the freedom of flight instills a profound sense of accomplishment and a lifelong connection to the aviation world.



THE GOOD NEWS!!

We will soon have two full financing, deferred payments for Nevada residents!

Currently, Nevada residents have been working with Stratus Financial. Starting the 1st of August, Meritize Financial (currently only available to CA residents) will be fully licensed in Nevada! Now two choices are available for those who need this option. We do not advocate for debt, but this is a great option to meet your financial needs. More information will soon be available on our website under "Instruction" then "Financing. "

SCHOLARSHIPS

- General Fred Michel Memorial Scholarship
 - <https://nevadafund.org/scholarships/general-fred-michel-memorial-scholarship>
- EAA Scholarship
 - <https://www.eaa.org/learn-to-fly/scholarships>
- Aviation Scholarships List
 - <https://www.aopa.org/training-and-safety/learn-to-fly/aviation-scholarships>



GET TO KNOW A FELLOW GBA PILOT, CARSON SMITH!

My name is Carson Smith and I'm currently working on my private pilot's license. I was born and raised in Reno and grew up

watching planes land mainly over the baseball and football fields when I wasn't begging my mom to park and let me watch anytime we were near the airport. I initially went to Texas to play college baseball in 2021, but after two years of that and school, my girlfriend's uncle took me on a non-official discovery flight. Once I

was actually able to FLY a plane (a few turns, climbs, and descents while we were up), there was no looking back from there. I dropped out of college (to finish up online later) and broke the news to my coaches. Ever since then, if I'm not in the sky accidentally saying "Stead traffic" on occasional radio calls to other airspace, you can find me at South Reno Athletic Club getting my workout in for the day or at Chick Fil A serving guests. While working the drive-thru, however, I will admit that I spend just as much time paying attention to departing planes as the guests. It's nice to have a constant reminder of why I'm working so hard. After my private, I plan to head back to Houston to finish my ratings and likely instruct until I can apply for airline jobs. GBA has been amazing throughout my training and I would recommend them to any friend or family member interested in pursuing this passion!



INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT RYAN MILL - CFI/CFII

Ryan's passion for Aviation began when he was young, watching TV shows like Coast Guard Alaska with his grandfather. He grew up always wanting to pursue a career in becoming a Helicopter pilot, however he quickly learned fixed wing was a much better path :) Born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, Ryan moved to Reno, NV in 2016 to pursue his bachelors degree at The University of Nevada, Reno and has lived here ever since. Ryan started his Aviation career with GBA in 2021 with no experience and worked his way up to becoming a CFI. When he is not flying you can usually find him somewhere in the mountains skiing, biking, or fishing.



NEWS FROM THE JON

*Author - Jon Aytes
Operations and Safety Manager*



One of the reasons we fly is to experience other airports and see some of our area outside of the Reno airport. Here at GBA we measure our success by our

ability to create and further encourage safe, competent, and proficient pilots in the most efficient manner possible. This next month fly outside of KRNO and self fuel the mighty Skyhawk. We are very lucky to have Atlantic here to fuel us, but it is an essential skill to be able to do this simple act at an outlying field. Before you go, have a good plan to get this done—and if you have any questions on what needs to be done then reach out to anyone in the office for assistance. It is not a complex task, but it will give you the independence to gas up the plane whenever you are traveling outside Reno! If you have put gas in an automobile, you can fuel an airplane. The big difference is you don't need a ladder to fuel your vehicle!



ACHIEVEMENTS

Check out the pilot achievements at GBA since our fall newsletter!

- Preston Parrish - PPL
- Jeff Wood - IPR
- Aki Nyrhinen - Solo
- Colin Powell - PPL
- Chris Rentfrow - PPL
- Chris Buell - Solo
- Cole Atkinson - Solo
- Pablo Stein - Solo
- Christian McCabe - PPL
- Ann Leeper - Solo
- Shane McAlister - Solo
- Nathan Morin - CFI
- Shon Plamondon - IPL
- Jeremy Martinez - PPL
- Jaden Protain - Solo
- Ethan Vincent - CPL
- David Sidorski - PPL
- Austin White - CFII
- Benjamin Roller - PPL
- Joshua Blackburn - CFI
- Paul Irving - IPR
- Jurgen Hirt - Solo
- Trey Casini - IPL
- Claire Eberle - Solo
- Connor Peterson - Solo
- Isaak Reid - Solo
- Matt Smith - CPL
- Seth Walker - Solo
- Jarrod Becker - Solo
- Zachary Heywood - Solo
- Zachary Kumler - Solo
- Damien McKeown - IPR, CPL
- Justin Pedersen - PPL
- Anthony Marrone - PPL
- Reed Bennett - CFI
- Michael Zacieracha - PPL
- Justin Fulton - Solo
- Alex Ramirez - CPL
- Paul Grady - Solo
- Erik Shy - Solo
- Nishan Riar - Solo
- Carson Smith - Solo
- Austin Fullmer - Solo
- Alex Monroe - PPL
- Randy Harsey - Solo
- Pablo Stein - PPL
- Ryan Mill - CFII
- Jarrett McDonald - Solo
- Aki Nyrhinen - PPL
- Reese Davis - IPR
- Enrique Calderon - PPL
- Zak Mahannah - IPR
- Andrew Spanier - CPL
- Greg Anthenien - IPL

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Summer Heat Restrictions

For safety reasons, the summer heat restrictions for aircraft weight and outside temperature are as follows:

- No flights when the outside temperature is over 100 degrees
- Operate in utility category only when temps are over 90.
- No fuel top offs
- No backseat riders for flights over 90 degrees at takeoff
- 100% max gross allowed for flights taking off under 90 degrees
- No touch and go's when temperatures are over 90 degrees
- See something, say something.

INSTRUCTOR'S CORNER

*Author - Richard Brong
CFI & Director of Aviation Education*

The regulations, operating handbooks, and training materials we work with are always focused around making the plane fly safely. But here's the catch - we can still be top-notch pilots when we pay close attention to the nitty-gritty details and work within the limits but also realize there's a real creative side to aviation. It's important to not get trapped in the box of minutia!

Thinking outside the box doesn't mean we're defying the flight envelope or busting regulations. That's just asking for trouble, and no pilot should be about that! Instead, we recognize that the limits are in place for a reason but that some don't always have to be thought of as hard limits. Even within the FAR, have you ever noticed how many regulations seem nebulous? By doing that, we can operate smartly within their bounds as the parameters of each flight change. What I'm getting at here is that the scenario usually dictates the course of action and that one size never fits all.

Working to be relaxed and being attentive to the total scenario is what sets the great pilots apart from the rest. Of course you focus on things like airspeed, altitude, bank angle, rudder, wind, etc. However, paying attention to the little, often unnoticed, things matters, too. That's where the creative interpretation to deal with the moment comes in. Do I have to raise flaps at exactly the same point after takeoff? Do I always have to climb at V_y ? Is there good reason to shrink or expand the pattern? Is my mixture setting always the same? The list of questions you should ask yourself is long! Essentially, anytime you reconfigure the airplane, it's fair to ask yourself if what you're about to do fits the current scenario. If it isn't a quick and obvious yes, think about fine tuning a bit.

So, let's keep our feet planted firmly on the ground (pun intended) and embrace the fact that the regs and performance numbers are here to stay - and with good reason. But that shouldn't hold us back in our flying. It's an invitation to think critically about what you are doing. With keen attention to the details and a bit of artistic license, we can navigate the skies like pros, keeping safety at the core of everything we do. There are two big realities in aviation. Number one is gravity. It always wins. The other is one I have shared with some of you. It's an axiom I used to use in the classroom and it goes: The only rule there's never an exception to is the one that says there's always an exception to the rule. Think about it! Fly safe.

WHAT'S NEW AT GREAT BASIN AVIATION?



2023 TRUCKEE TAHOE AIRSHOW

What a fantastic event! GBA recently participated in the Truckee Tahoe Airshow with N974TH. Besides Richard getting hangry, it was very attended, family fun event. Events like these not only showcase the beauty and excitement of aviation but also provide an excellent opportunity to connect with aviation enthusiasts, inspire future pilots, and strengthen the aviation community. The Truckee Tahoe Air Show left a positive impact on attendees and fellow aviation enthusiasts. It's events like these that foster a deeper appreciation for flying and aviation's contributions to our lives.

LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST ACADEMY FIELD TRIP

Light House Baptist Academy recently brought a group of young students to GBA for a field trip to explore aviation. Learning about aviation proved to be an exciting and educational experience! Students learned about how airplanes fly, parts of an airplane, aviators in history, and then got to climb in (and on) a Cessna 172. The primary goal was to make the field trip fun, educational, and memorable for the young aviation enthusiasts. Jon Aytes (GBA Ops and Safety Manager) and Hailey Bogle (GBA Office Manager) introduced the students to the fascinating world of aviation in an engaging manner, inspiring curiosity, and passion for aviation exploration.



GBA AT HARVARD

GBA owner, Jenn Fonda, was recently one of 30 women who received a scholarship through Women in Aviation international to attend a three-day extended studies training at Harvard. It was the inaugural Women in Aviation, Emerging Leaders course through the Harvard Division of continuing education. Definitely the most powerful development Jenn has ever been part of. The program focused on effective communication, negotiations, mapping a business network, strategic thinking/planning, and the power of relationships.

Look for these opportunities in the aviation industry. They are out there and a huge benefit regardless of your role in this exciting industry!

Have an idea how GBA can get involved in a community event? Reach to to GBA staff with your ideas.

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