

# Fall 2023 Newsletter



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- Tara Tate - PPL
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## REMINDERS

It's crucial to stay weather-aware, especially with the frosty season approaching! Here are some tips to keep in mind while planning your flight and dealing with potential frost or freezing precipitation:

**1. Check the Weather, Check it Twice:** Always, always, always check the weather forecast before your flight. This includes your departure, destination, and alternate airports. Look out for any signs of frost or freezing precipitation, and be vigilant about any changes in weather conditions.

**2. Frosty Facts:** Frost can form on your aircraft if certain conditions are met. Watch out for these specific conditions:

- The aircraft skin temperature is below freezing. Remember, radiation cooling or cold soak fuel can make the aircraft skin colder than the ambient temperature.
- The air temperature is close to the dew point temperature, within 3°C or 5°F.
- The dew point is below freezing.

**3. Clear Skies, Calm Winds, and Warm Fronts:** Frost is more likely to form under specific weather conditions. Be cautious if you observe:

- A cloudless sky with calm winds.
- A warm front bringing warm, moist air. Warm fronts can create conditions favorable for frost formation.

Additional Tips for an On-Time Departure:

**Ensure an On-Time Departure:** To guarantee a punctual takeoff, especially if you have the first booking of the day, it's essential to be early. Arriving ahead of time allows you and your Instructor the necessary moments to assess the aircraft, check weather conditions, and address any frost-related issues.

**Teamwork to Beat the Frost:** In the event of frost formation on your aircraft, you and your CFI will be put to work in helping remove it. Teamwork is crucial here. Using approved de-icing techniques and equipment, you'll work together to clear frost from critical surfaces, ensuring your aircraft is in optimal condition for flight.

Remember, safety is a shared responsibility. By being proactive, arriving early, and working together, you can ensure a safe, frost-free departure and a smooth flight experience. Stay warm and stay safe up there!

## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- **Reno Tahoe Aviation Group (Deadline = 01/31/2024):**
  - **Student Pilot Scholarship (\$4,000)** - <https://www.renoaviation.org/student-pilot-scholarship>
  - **Advanced Rating Scholarship (\$2,500)** - <https://www.renoaviation.org/advanced-rating-scholarship>

- **AOPA Flight Training Scholarships (Deadline = 02/09/2024):**
  - <https://www.aopa.org/training-and-safety/students/aopa-flight-training-scholarships>



# GET TO KNOW FELLOW GBA PILOT, JUSTIN RICE!

Born and raised in the beauty of California, flying has always been an important part of my life story. Growing up, flying was part of my family's fun and adventure together. I discovered my passion for flight at an early age, courtesy of my grandfather, whose half-century of piloting experience became my first window into the world of aviation. Those airborne moments with him were more than flights; they were treasured moments of bonding and learning. As a teenager, I often flew with my father and witnessed his joy and fulfillment with flying. His passion for flight was contagious, and it instilled in me a deep admiration for the freedom and wonder of aviation. Also, my younger brother gravitated towards the skies and began flight school in 2022. His journey mirrored my own aspirations and fueled my desire to embrace the challenges and joys of flying. The memories forged during those family flights remain etched in my memory and were the ultimate motivation for me to come to GBA. From my first flight, I have been hooked and the lessons I have learned here have been invaluable. My ambition is to follow in the footsteps of my grandfather, father, and brother, embracing flying and making memories. Travel isn't just a desire; it's a calling and one that I have been able to strive closer to during my time at GBA. My biggest piece of advice for future students would be to persevere through frustration and study hard!



## INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT: ALEX SPENCER (CFI)



Alex is a dedicated, full-time CFI who began his aviation journey in Southern California. Encouraged by family members who were already in aviation, Alex left his engineering profession to pursue a career in aviation. He eagerly embraced the flight deck of the C172 and never looked back. Throughout his training, Alex often found himself compelled to seek a deeper understanding of aerodynamics and flight. Sharing this knowledge turned out to be another passion of his, a natural progression that fueled his aspiration to become a CFI. After spending most of his life in South Lake Tahoe and holding a degree from the University

of Nevada, Reno, he feels a connection to the region and is thrilled to pursue his aviation career in what he considers his true home. When he isn't flying, you can find him at his favorite places to bike, ski, or fish.



# FROM COMMAND CENTRAL – JENNIFER FONDA



You will notice some updates to our winter schedule. In order to guarantee timely departures, we have introduced staggered dispatch times. Some at 7am, then 8am, etc. Additionally, during weekends, we are gradually shifting our take-off schedule to 9 am. This adjustment is aimed at leveraging the natural warmth of the morning sun, providing optimal flying conditions, particularly during extremely cold temperatures.

We kindly request your cooperation in adhering to our safety protocols. Please be reminded that no operations will be conducted under 20 degrees Fahrenheit. Your safety and comfort remain our top priority, and these changes are implemented to ensure a smooth and secure travel experience for all.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we continue to prioritize your well-being in every aspect of our service!

Also, we are thrilled to announce that N752DW is receiving a new engine! The installation is scheduled for this week, and it will be back in our fleet within the next week or two. As we gear up for this upgrade, we want to share some important information with all our pilots.

During the engine break-in period, our goal is to achieve maximum allowable power, with 75% power in cruise, while diligently monitoring engine temperatures. To ensure proper break-in, it is crucial to keep Cylinder Head Temperature (CHT) values below 400 whenever possible. With the arrival of cooler fall temperatures, achieving this goal should be more straightforward.

We encourage our pilots not to be conservative with the mixture; running slightly richer than you're used to will be beneficial. Additionally, we kindly request refraining from performing touch and go's and approaches on the aircraft until it completes its first 100 hours. Cross-country flights are highly recommended during this period.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) or our staff. Thank you for your cooperation, and let's look forward to having N752DW back in the skies with enhanced performance!

## THOUGHTS FROM JON

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### Parallel Runways and You

No surprise to anyone, but parallel runways (including Reno's) can cause a wrong surface event, or WSE to occur. A WSE is when an aircraft lands on or departs from the wrong runway. According to the FAA, parallel offset runways, (similar to our 35L and 35R) are found to be the principal cause of Wrong Surface Event.

What do you do to mitigate this you ask? Great question! Do these three things:

- Study the field diagram and review the parallel runway landing environment before you takeoff.
- Verbally confirm and read back the landing clearance and LOOK to ensure you're landing on the correct runway. Use any extra eyes in the cockpit to confirm.
- Use GPS or ILS to ensure you are lined up correctly. The instrument will alert you if you are lined up wrong.

Extra credit, if you so chose, is to watch the incident video from the Air Safety Institute on YouTube by Robert McSpadden. Search "July 17, 2022 Mid air collision at the North Las Vegas airport (KVGTT)".



# SPILLING THE TEA

RICHARD BRONG

## Maximizing Flight Training Delays: Strategies for Progress

Well, there you are. You've come far along in your training and are ready to schedule your check-ride with your preferred Designated Pilot Examiner. You reach out and... what??? You can't get me in for three months? We know. That has been hard reality in recent months as our area (and the nation) is in a real shortage of DPEs. It's frustrating, for sure, but it doesn't mean you have to just stop your training while you wait for your ride. Here are some ideas of what you can do if you find yourself at the end of a course of training but still weeks or months out from your checkride.

First off, don't panic. For most folks, the certificate you are working on is not the last certificate you will ever earn. Be aware of the total time you need for various ratings. Include details about types of flight, too (night, cross-country, etc.). You can always keep building time toward future ratings. PIC cross-country, for example, if PIC cross-country (??). Many pilots wanting to fly with the airlines keep the magic 1500 hours as their target. FAR 61.159 outlines all of the subcategories you need to keep working on, too. Knock some out!

Do you plan on working toward future ratings? If you're working on a Private Pilot certificate, can you keep adding on PIC cross country hours that would count towards your Part 61 Instrument Pilot Rating, or beyond? Yes! Are you planning on earning a Commercial Pilot Certificate? Commercial certification requires 250 hours of pilot time. You get the point. Talk with your instructor and see where you can be creative. Don't forget to keep your chops sharp for the rating you're working on.

Be careful, too. Experience not earned in a 141 training program usually cannot be used for 141 curricula. Could you go out and do your required commercial cross-country flight while waiting for a test date? Well, that's a very grey area. You have to be careful to follow the regs for whatever rating you are looking at so be sure to look at them closely. It could be said that the regulations assume that you have the experience of whatever license is a prerequisite for the experience you seek to log. You get the idea.

The short story is that there are things one can do while waiting for the inevitable checkride so it doesn't feel like you're in a perpetual holding pattern. Just be careful to work with your CFI, keep your current skills sharp, and don't lose sight of the big picture. Your ride day will come and you'll be that much further along!



# WHAT'S GOING ON AT GBA?

## Career Fair at Dilworth Middle School



GBA recently had the opportunity to participate in a career fair at Dilworth Middle School, where we embarked on a mission to inspire and inform young minds about the exciting and diverse world of aviation. Our presence at the event was not just about pilots but extended to all aspects of the industry, including mechanics, air traffic control, dispatch, flight attendant roles, engineering, and beyond.

Our team was passionate about showcasing the multitude of career paths within aviation, aiming to ignite curiosity and ambition among students. We shared insights into various roles, shedding light on the vast array of opportunities available. Our goal was to encourage these bright minds to consider aviation as a viable and rewarding career choice.

One of our key focuses during the event was to highlight scholarship opportunities within the aviation sector. We believe that financial support can play a crucial role in shaping the dreams of aspiring aviators. By connecting students with these scholarship opportunities, we hope to ease their path towards achieving their aviation-related goals.

## Operation Santa Claus

On Saturday, December 9, the spirit of Christmas will come alive at the Reno-Tahoe International Airport as Santa and a parade of aircraft join forces to bring joy to the families of the Children's Cabinet. This heartwarming event, aptly named Operation Santa Claus, promises a day of enchantment for everyone involved.

Pilots from the area will come together for a festive aircraft parade, filling the ramp with holiday spirit. Families attending the event will be greeted with special gifts, making their Christmas celebrations even more magical. And that's not all - the jolly duo, Santa and Mrs. Claus, will be making a special appearance, adding to the excitement of the day. If we're lucky, we might even catch a glimpse of the impressive Nevada Air National Guard C-130.

The morning will be filled with enchanting performances, delightful gifts, joyful photos, a scrumptious lunch, creative crafts, and much more. Operation Santa Claus is made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority and Atlantic Aviation, bringing the community together for a memorable holiday experience.

We invite you to be a part of this magical day by volunteering for Operation Santa Claus. If you're interested in lending a helping hand, please reach out to our dedicated GBA staff as soon as possible. Your contribution can make a significant difference in brightening the holiday season for these families.

Thank you for your support, and let's make this holiday season truly special for the children and families of the Children's Cabinet!









