

THE HOLD SHORT

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BACK TO THE CLASSROOM, ON PURPOSE

In-person ground school is back at Great Basin Aviation, and that's not by accident. Ground training is where habits are built, understanding is tested, and gaps are caught early, long before they show up in the airplane. While self-study and online tools have their place, there is real value in learning in a structured classroom, asking questions in real time, and working through scenarios alongside other pilots who are navigating the same material.

This season, we're offering both Private Pilot Ground School and Instrument Ground School in person. Each course is designed to do more than prepare students for a knowledge exam. The goal is to build understanding that carries forward into the oral exam and, more importantly, into real-world flying.

Our Private Pilot Ground School focuses on building a strong foundation early. Students work through core aeronautical knowledge with an emphasis on application, decision-making, and developing good study and training habits from the start. It's about setting expectations and creating consistency before flight training accelerates.

Instrument Ground School takes a more advanced approach. IFR flying demands discipline, situational awareness, and sound judgment when conditions are less forgiving. This course emphasizes procedures, systems, weather interpretation, and risk management, so pilots aren't just passing a test, but learning how to think and operate confidently in the system.

At Great Basin Aviation, ground school is an extension of how we train in the airplane. Structured. Purposeful. Focused on long-term proficiency, not shortcuts. Instructors lead these courses with the same standards and expectations students see in flight training, helping ensure continuity between the classroom and the cockpit.

If you're preparing to start flight training, working toward your instrument rating, or looking to strengthen your foundation, these in-person ground school courses are an opportunity to reset, refocus, and move forward with intention.

Details for both courses are included on the last couple of pages below.

When the clearance comes, preparation matters, on the ground as much as in the air.

REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

- **Reminder from the December 5th Hold Short, and subsequent weeks, the rental cost per hour for G1000 aircraft increased on 1/1/2026.**
- In the event of cancellation, call the office or email us asap. Messages and emails are monitored even after hours.
- Please check for wing covers before you start your pre-flight. Do not lower flaps with covers on. Flaps can bind and crack under the fabric, and any damage will be passed on.
- **Monday night study groups will not be held from December 22nd to January 19th. They will start up again on Monday, January 26th. Thanks!**



Big congratulations to Maile Tsuchiyama-Sando, who just earned her Private Pilot Certificate, and did it the Maile way: with grit, grace, and a whole lot of heart.

Maile somehow balances full-time school (mechanical engineering, y'all), an internship, real life, frequent trips back and forth to Vegas for family, and the occasional hula dance (she's a pro). Add in some less-than-cooperative winter weather up here, and it would've been easy to hit pause.

Instead, Maile did what great pilots do, she adapted.

When the weather wasn't playing nice, she reached out to a Cessna Pilot Center in Henderson, @cactusaviationlv (huge mahalo to those guys for the assist) and was able to complete her checkride with a DPE while home for the holidays. That kind of initiative, flexibility, and follow-through says everything about the pilot she's becoming.

Now it's back to school, back to work, and back to living a full, balanced life, with a pilot certificate in her pocket and the sky wide open ahead of her. This is exactly why we do what we do.

Huge shoutout as well to her instructor, Andrew Spanier, for guiding her journey and supporting her all the way to the finish line.

Maile, you bring aloha, determination, and quiet confidence into everything you do. We are so proud of you.

Maile Tsuchiyama-Sando Private Pilot

Congrats to Giovani Rodriguez on earning his Instrument Rating today, officially putting more wins on the board this year than the Dallas Cowboys.

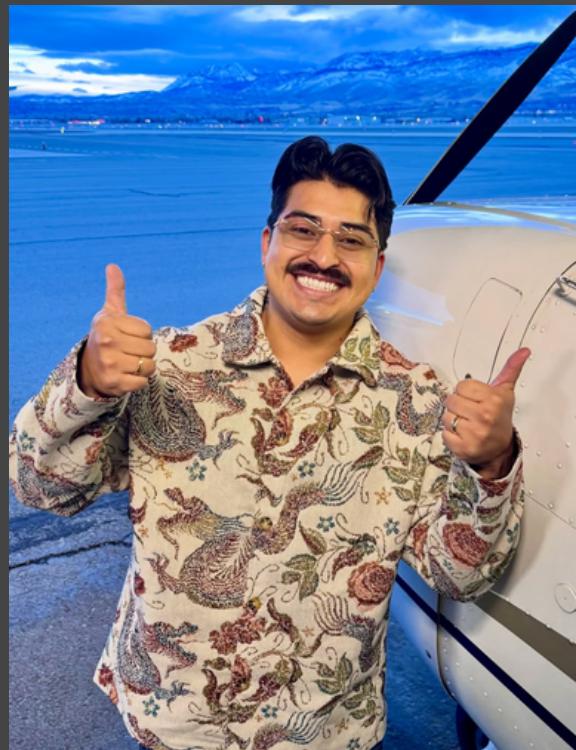
While the Cowboys were busy finding creative ways to disappoint their fans, Giovani was out here executing a solid game plan. He balanced instrument training, just graduated college, serves in the Air National Guard, helps keep the GBA office running, and still shows up every day for his beautiful family, his wife and three kids. That's a full-season grind with no bye weeks.

Instrument training isn't flashy. It's about discipline, preparation, and making the right call when the pressure is on, and Giovani delivered. Calm under pressure, consistent in execution, and finishing strong when it mattered most. Unlike some teams we could mention.

Huge credit to his CFII, Eric Harned, for coaching him through the process and getting him across the goal line.

Giovani, you didn't just make the playoffs, you won your championship this season. Cowboys fans can only hope next year looks more like your logbook.

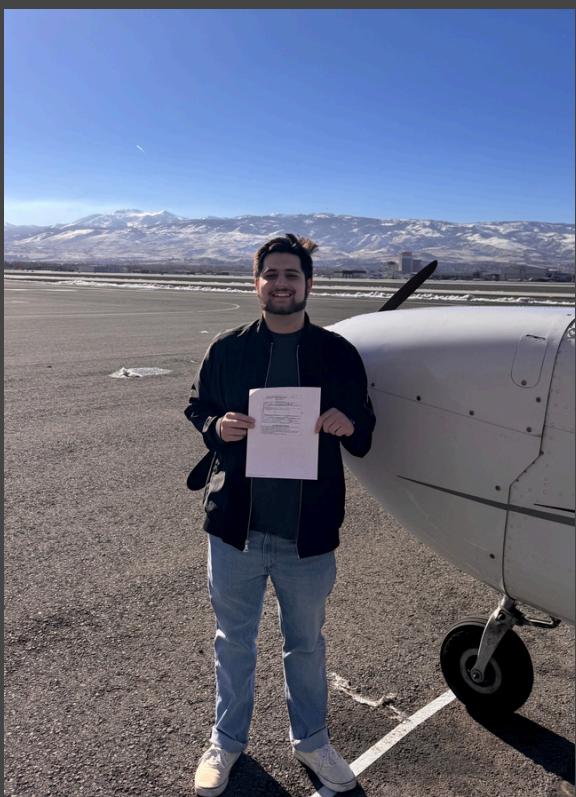
Now it's time to move up the league (and maybe pick a different football team). On to Commercial! And that shirt...



Giovani Rodriguez
Instrument Rating

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GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT



Michael Abawi
Private Pilot

Big congratulations to Michael Abawi on officially passing his Private Pilot checkride and earning his wings!

From the start, Michael's goal of becoming a pilot was clear. He consistently showed up prepared, focused, and willing to put in the work it takes to succeed in flight training, even on the days when flying felt less fun and more like work. Coming from Gardnerville and balancing school alongside training, he kept a steady, no drama approach that paid off on checkride day.

Michael isn't locked into one specific path in aviation and that fits him well. He's keeping an open mind and letting flying take him where it will. When asked how he planned to celebrate passing his checkride, his answer was exactly what you'd expect after a long day of performing under pressure: a nap. Respect.

A big shoutout to his instructor, James Morgan, whose guidance, patience, and instruction played a major role in Michael's success. Strong instructor student teamwork like this is what makes flight training work.

We're proud of you, Michael. From the discipline and consistency to the calm confidence and that great smile, this milestone is well earned. We're excited to see where aviation takes you next. Congratulations, Pilot!

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GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT

Check this out! Our in-person Private Pilot Ground School is back and designed to set you up for real success, not just the written, but the flying that comes after. Even if you already have the kit and are working through it on your own, you're welcome to jump in and join the class.



PRIVATE PILOT GROUND SCHOOL

This in-person ground school is designed to prepare you to successfully pass the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Exam and to build a solid foundation for the oral exam and real-world flight training that follows. The course emphasizes understanding, application, and long-term proficiency, not rote memorization.

DETAILS

► WHEN AND WHERE

- Tuesday & Thursday evenings
- 6:00–8:00 PM
- Starting January 20
- January: 20, 22, 27, 29
- February: 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 26

► COURSE MATERIALS

- Cessna / King Private Pilot Kit w/Logbook, E6B, and plotter
- Access to the Cessna e-course and reference library
- Companion app access
- Question review and test-prep tools

► EXPECTATIONS

- Willingness to actively participate
- Commitment to completing assigned homework
- Consistent attendance and engagement during class sessions

► COST

- \$500 with Cessna / King Private Pilot Kit
- \$250 if kit already purchased

► SIGN UP

- Email - GoFlying@GreatBasinAviation.com
- Call/Text - 775-856-3655



WHY CHOOSE GBA?

Training at Great Basin Aviation means learning in a structured, professional environment led by experienced instructors who train with long-term proficiency in mind. Our focus is not just passing a test, but developing sound aeronautical judgment, strong fundamentals, and habits that carry forward into safe, confident flying.

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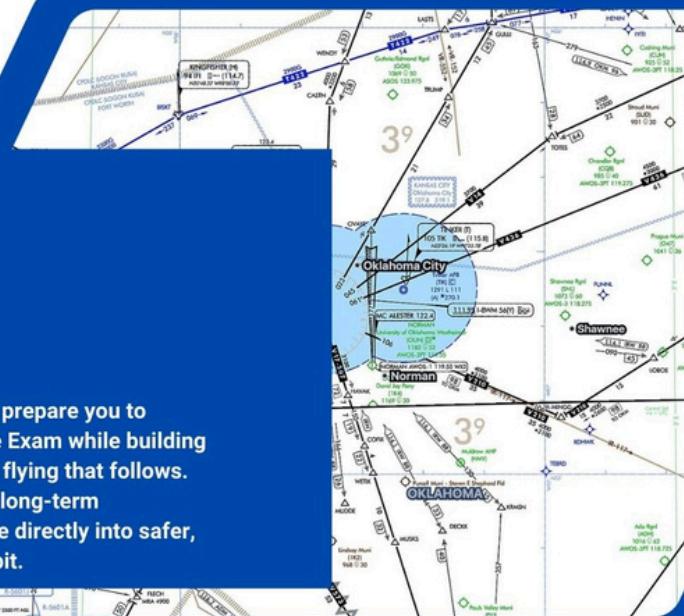
GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT

It's Back!! Our in-person Instrument Ground School taught by the incomparable Bob Bennett. Reserve your seat now!



INSTRUMENT GROUND SCHOOL

This in-person Instrument Ground School is designed to prepare you to successfully pass the FAA Instrument Rating Knowledge Exam while building a strong foundation for the oral exam and real-world IFR flying that follows. The course emphasizes understanding, application, and long-term proficiency, not rote memorization, so concepts translate directly into safer, more confident instrument decision-making in the cockpit.



DETAILS

► WHEN AND WHERE

- Monday & Wednesday evenings
- 6:00–9:00 PM
- February 16–March 25
- Atlantic Aviation

► COURSE MATERIALS

- Jeppesen Text Book and ASA Test Prep (included in price)
- Basic Foreflight Subscription for electronic charts

► EXPECTATIONS

- Willingness to actively participate
- Commitment to completing assigned homework
- Consistent attendance and engagement during class sessions

► COST

- \$500 (includes books)

► SIGN UP

- Email - GoFlying@GreatBasinAviation.com
- Call/Text - 775-856-3655



Why Choose GBA?

Well, #1, Bob is teaching the class, but also, training for your Instrument Rating at GBA means learning in a structured, professional environment led by experienced instructors who emphasize long-term proficiency. Our focus goes beyond passing a test to developing sound aeronautical judgment, strong IFR fundamentals, and disciplined habits that translate into safe, confident decision-making in real-world instrument flying.