

# THE HOLD SHORT

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25OCT - 31OCT

## PUMPKINS, PROPS, AND PREHEATS

October at Great Basin Aviation always has a certain vibe. The sun's barely up, the ramp lights are flickering, frost glitters on the wings, and the first one to preflight looks like they're performing an exorcism with a scraper. Welcome to fall flying in Reno, where the ghosts aren't in the hangar, they're on your control surfaces.

Here are a few frightfully familiar tales, and how to avoid starring in one yourself:

1. The Frost Phantom - It's that time again, cold, clear mornings and shiny wings that look beautiful but deadly. Frost kills lift faster than you can say "checkride." If it's icy, don't rush. Move the aircraft into the sun, wait it out, or start scheduling later in the day. The weather all day has been perfect for flying.
2. The Ghost of Taxiways Past - RNO and RNO ramp space can feel like a maze this time of year. Between construction zones, line guys whizzing around in the gold cart, and parked aircraft, keep those taxi speeds slow and eyes moving. Make sure you are checking what is behind you before start up too. No one needs some C172 prop air conditioning when it is already freezing out there.
3. The Cold Start Creature - When temps drop, your preheat checklist becomes your best friend. Cranking a cold engine without preheat can do more damage than a zombie apocalypse. If it's below 20°F, call ahead, plan extra time, and be kind to the Lycoming spirits under the cowling.
4. The Haunted Hangar (Also Known as the Office) - We've got some new energy this fall, longer aircraft rental blocks, overnight rental opportunities, and some fun promos to keep everyone flying. One of them is the GBA Kessel Run (someone is a Star Wars geek). We've mapped 20 airports, hit 12 and you earn the shirt. Think of it as the ultimate Northern Nevada trick-or-treat route, but instead of candy, you collect flight time, stories, and bragging rights. There might be candy in the office though... More details coming soon.
5. Community, Not Zombies - We love seeing how our students and renters are already spreading the word: "a friend of mine flies here," "my coworker told me to check you out," "someone at another airport said you guys were great." We appreciate it so much!! Thank you for sharing your love of aviation with others!

Happy Halloween from the GBA crew. Hold short of the haunted runway.

## REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

- 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.
- Need some study buddies? Don't forget about Private Pilot Study Groups on the 1st and 3rd Monday, 6pm-8pm. Instrument Ground School help, those will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, 6pm-8pm.
- The weather is great at midday! Sleep in a little and fly when the air is still cool, calm, and beautiful.



**CRISTOBAL ALVARENGA –  
PRIVATE PILOT**

Private Pilot Alert! Huge congratulations to Cristobal “Cris” Alvarenga, who just soared into the skies as a freshly certified Private Pilot! Cris has been one of the most dedicated and prepared students to ever taxi onto the Great Basin Aviation ramp. From day one, he’s shown unmatched focus, drive, and grit, never cutting corners, never showing up unprepared, and always putting in the extra work to be ready for whatever the day (or the weather) throws at him.

Outside of aviation, Cris is just as impressive. He’s a devoted family man who somehow manages to balance his flight training with his beautiful family and full time flight training, making sure every part of his life gets the attention and heart it deserves. That kind of balance takes real skill.

But let’s address the turbulence in the room, Cris is a Giants fan. Yep... those Giants that finished third in the NL West. So naturally, it’s only right that we take a moment to say...HOW ‘BOUT THEM DODGERS?!

All jokes aside, this accomplishment took dedication, sacrifice, and true passion. We’re beyond proud of you, Cris, and a big shoutout to your incredible instructor, CFI Nicole Gonzalez, for her guidance, patience, and top-notch instruction. Enjoy the view, Private Pilot, you’ve earned every bit of it!

Ski you in the pattern! Huge congratulations to Sam Klem, who just carved his name into the skies as Great Basin Aviation’s newest Private Pilot!

Sam takes his love of adventure from the slopes to the skies. Whether he’s dropping into a powder day or a steep final approach, he’s always calm, focused, and in control. His hard work, preparation, and determination are second to none, and he makes it all look as smooth as fresh corduroy at sunrise.

He’s the kind of pilot who shows up early, studies late, and keeps the same upbeat attitude no matter what challenges the weather, the lesson, or the office harassment brings. Truly one of the most pleasant, easygoing, and hard-working students to grace our ramp. When he’s not preflighting or briefing, Sam’s out there doing what he loves, chasing peaks, exploring the outdoors, and getting ready to shred the pow-pow the way he just shredded his checkride.

Big shoutout to CFI Greg Anthenien for helping Sam navigate the bumps, find the lift, and carve out a perfect line to success. Congrats, Sam, your turns just went from carving slopes to carving clouds. Keep shredding, Private Pilot!



**SAM KLEM –  
PRIVATE PILOT**



**ELIZABETH FRANCIS –  
SOLO**

### Superwoman Takes Flight!

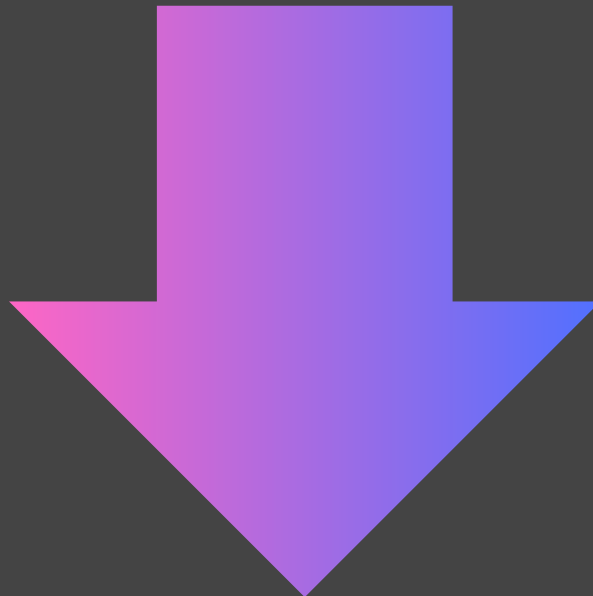
Huge congratulations to Elizabeth Francis, who took to the skies solo today at KRTS in N328ME on runway 08!

Elizabeth's journey is the very definition of persistence, grit, and heart. She started her flight training, hit pause to serve our country through boot camp and tech school, and came right back ready to climb higher than ever. Balancing her duties with the Nevada Air National Guard, her college coursework, and flight training would be a challenge for anyone, but Elizabeth handles it all like a pro, with focus, determination, and a sense of humor that keeps everyone around her smiling.

And yes... we have to mention that ridiculous email address, because it's pure Elizabeth: unforgettable, a little chaotic, and full of personality. It's the perfect reflection of someone who refuses to fit into a box (or stay on the ground).

Today, all her dedication paid off as she lifted off alone for the first time, just her, the sky, and that unbeatable feeling of true freedom.

Outstanding job, Elizabeth! Your hard work, drive, and fearless energy make you an inspiration to every pilot chasing their dream. Huge shoutout as well to her CFI Andy Glenn for the excellent instruction and support leading up to this milestone moment.





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## GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT

CHECK OUT INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING  
GROUND SCHOOL SUPPLEMENT COURSES:



# GROUND SCHOOL SUPPLEMENT COURSES

**\$50 PER  
CLASS (2HRS)**  
INSTRUCTOR WILL SIGN  
OFF TRAINING IN YOUR  
LOG BOOK



**SEPTEMBER**



## 9/20 - AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

The Aircraft Systems class teaches how key systems, engine, electrical, fuel, and control function, preparing you to identify and manage potential issues for safer flight.



## 10/04 - AERODYNAMICS

This class covers how these planes fly: lift, drag, thrust, and weight, helping you understand airflow, stability, stalls, and maneuvering for better control and efficiency in flight.

## 10/18 - AVIATION WEATHER

This class teaches you how to interpret METARs, TAFs, charts, and weather patterns, helping you make informed decisions for safer flight planning and in-flight adjustments.



**OCTOBER**



**NEXT**

## 11/01 - AIRSPACE

This class covers airspace classes, chart recognition, communication and equipment requirements, plus the weather minimums every pilot needs to know.



**NOVEMBER**

## 11/15 - CHARTS AND FLIGHT PLANNING

This class helps you master sectionals, airspace, and chart symbols, ensuring you can navigate safely and efficiently in all flight environments. This class will also cover route selection, fuel calculations, airspace considerations, and weather analysis, ensuring you can plan safe, efficient, and well-prepared flights.



## 12/06 - EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

This class prepares you to handle engine failures, system malfunctions, lost communications, and in-flight emergencies, ensuring quick thinking and confident decision-making in critical situations.

## 12/20 - CHECKRIDE PREP

This class helps you master oral exam questions, flight maneuvers, and scenario-based decision-making, ensuring you are confident and well-prepared for your checkride.



**DECEMBER**



From  
1-3PM



**MORE INFO:**

**GBA OFFICE, 775-856-3655**  
**GOFLYING@GREATBASINAVIATION.COM**