

Spring 2024 Newsletter



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Randy Harsey - PPL
- Benjamin Roller - CPL
- Tim Adams - Solo
- Shane McAlister - IPR
- Jürgen Hirt - IPR
- Jennifer Carey - Solo
- Andy Glenn - Solo
- Travis Johnson - PPL
- Preston Parrish - CPL
- Nacayla Franey - IPR
- Joshua Gilmore - Solo
- Alex Crupi - Solo
- James Morgan - CFI
- Miles Grieve - PPL
- Cole Melby - CFI
- Audrey Topp - PPL
- Jared Garrido - Solo
- Mason Maltese - Solo
- Derrick Craine - Solo
- Issak Reid - PPL
- Zachary Slate - Solo
- Reese Davis - CPL
- Ian Barry - Solo
- Cory Kleidosty - CPL
- Zachary Colton - PPL
- Makaela Wallace - Solo
- Brendan OBrien - Solo
- Kevin Marshall - CFII
- Cody Sbranti - Solo
- Rob Schuermann - Solo
- Pablo Stein - CPL

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

We've got some friendly reminders to help us all keep the aircraft in tip-top shape while having a blast up in the skies.

1. Door Discipline: Let's be gentle with those doors. Slamming doors can lead to pesky and expensive maintenance issues, so always close them with care. And remember, a door left open is an invitation for trouble, so never walk away from the door while it is open. Even when the winds are calm.

2. Post-Flight TLC: Ah, the post-flight checklist—the unsung hero of every flight. Don't skip it! It's our trusty guide to making sure everything's shipshape after we touch down. Trust us, a little checklist love goes a long way in keeping our planes happy and healthy. Turn the master off, chock the tires, etc.

3. Supply Bins: Let's talk about those supply bins. When using the oil funnel, please make sure to put it back in the bag when you're done. If something's missing or out of place, let us know ASAP. We're all in this together!

4. Trash Talk: Please clean out the pouches and any trash from the plane after your flight. Keeping the cockpit clean is everyone's job, and it makes flying more enjoyable for the next person.

Summer is coming! Remember these heat restrictions:

- No flights when the temperature hits 100 degrees.
- No more than 75% max gross for flights between 90-100 degrees.
- No backseat riders for flight over 90 degrees at takeoff.
- No touch and go's once temps hit 90 degrees.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Here is a fantastic resource for aviation scholarships. While the information hasn't been fully vetted, it's a valuable site to follow for scholarship opportunities. Securing scholarships can be challenging, but the rewards are definitely worth the effort!

<https://scholarships360.org/scholarships/aviation-scholarships/>





GET TO KNOW FELLOW GBA PILOT, PRESTON PARRISH



Hey everybody, my name is Preston Parrish, I am almost 22 years old and have been flying for about the last 8 years. I am currently a commercial pilot and am working on my CFI which I should have by this summer. I did all of my certificates through GBA, and I love it here. Since I was very young, I had always had a feeling that I wanted to fly. Every time I would go to the airport, I would sit by the windows and watch the planes. I absolutely loved the whole airport environment and knew that that was something I wanted to do for a

job. Of course, I wasn't certain about it until I was 8 and I took my first young eagles flight, and I was hooked. But I knew I would have to wait until I was older to make it a reality. So, I waited and as soon as I turned 13 in 2015, I started flying gliders in Truckee. I worked at Soar Truckee, working in exchange for flight lessons until I was 18. I did my best to remain around the airport as much as I could. Taking a few intern jobs with flight schools and airplane mechanics to finance my way through flight school. It wasn't until 2020 that I got my commercial glider certificate, and further in 2022 at 20 years old I earned my CFI glider certificate. It didn't come easy though I had been through so many flight schools. It wasn't until I came back to Reno that I finally found a flight school that worked for me at Great Basin.

I started flying a few times early in 2022 but wasn't able to really dive in until later that year when I took advantage of GBA's loan partner. Which was truly an amazing opportunity that I had prayed for. After many many hours I was able to finally seal in my Private Airplane in early 2023. Then after many weather delays and balancing my school at UNR and working at the Truckee airport I was able to get my instrument and finally commercial. Now I am looking to the future and to a career in aviation. I am so grateful to have had the phenomenal opportunity to finally reach something that I have been dreaming of for most of my life and I couldn't have done it without Great Basin Aviation. Huge thank you to everybody here who has helped me along the way.

INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT: ANDREW SPANIER

Andrew was born and raised in Reno, Nevada and graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno, with a degree in accounting. However, despite finding success in the accounting field, there was always a lingering passion that beckoned Andrew skyward. Andrew made the bold decision to pivot his career and pursue his dreams of becoming a pilot. Now being a full-fledged CFI, Andrew has found that teaching other aspiring pilots has become a true passion. From his own humble beginnings, he finds an immense gratification in seeing his own students soar to new heights. When Andrew isn't flying, you can find him outdoors either snowboarding or hiking, or spending time with friends and family.





JENN'S WORDS OF WISDOM



As summer approaches, it's time to get into the summer mindset for flying. Warmer weather brings unique challenges and considerations, but with the right preparation, you can make the most of this exciting season. Here's how not to become the subject of Jenn email:

Aircraft Operations

Leaning Procedures: In hot weather, the air is less dense, which can affect your aircraft's performance. Proper leaning of the mixture is essential to ensure optimal engine performance and prevent fouling of spark plugs. Make sure you're familiar with the specific leaning procedures for your aircraft to maintain efficiency and safety. You will notice it is a bit different than winter operations. Get into the summer mindset!

Heat on the Ramp: The ramp can get extremely hot during the summer months. This can impact both you and your aircraft. Be cautious when touching metal surfaces, as they can become scorching hot under the sun. It's a good idea to check tire pressure more frequently, as heat can cause pressure to rise.

In-Flight Heat: Cabin temperatures can rise quickly during flight. Ensure that your ventilation system is working properly. It's also important to keep an eye on engine temperatures and manage your climb rates to avoid overheating. Climbs will be slower and your pitch will be less as density altitude increases.

Personal Preparation

Dress Appropriately: Wear light, breathable clothing to stay cool and comfortable. Sunglasses and a hat can also help protect you from the sun's glare and reduce fatigue. Remember that dressing in layers can help you adjust to varying temperatures throughout the day.



Stay Hydrated: Hydration is crucial during summer flying. Dehydration can impair your cognitive functions and overall performance. Bring plenty of water and drink regularly, even if you don't feel thirsty.

Manage Motion Sickness: The heat and turbulence often associated with summer flying can increase the likelihood of motion sickness. Be prepared for the possibility of more "puke in the plane" by having sick bags readily available and knowing the signs of nausea early on. Do we need to talk about puke tornadoes?

Sun Protection: Use sunscreen to protect your skin from UV rays, even when you're in the cockpit. Sun exposure can be intense at higher altitudes, so reapply sunscreen as needed. Especially if you are follicly challenged (ahem...Richard)

Plan Ahead: Check the weather forecast and plan your flights during cooler parts of the day, such as early morning or late afternoon/evening. The later blocks and night flights are excellent for advanced instruction. Don't just check conditions on departure, you need to know what you are coming back into.

By taking these precautions and preparing for the unique challenges of summer flying, you can ensure a safe and enjoyable experience in the skies. Embrace the summer mindset, stay cool, keep Jenn happy, and go flying!



LEARNING TO FLY IS NOT EASY

RICHARD BRONG

Have I ever considered quitting flying? Yes. More than once. Why? Flying is not easy. For years I made excuses of why I couldn't fly. Finally I ran with it and started to learn. During training, I was forced to face some of my 'darkest corners' and my choice was to either to grow beyond them, or quit. I grew beyond and earned my certificate. After earning my certificate, I flew for a while, earned an instrument rating, then I actually did quit for three years. The local rental market more or less dried up and I wasn't feeling the love for aviation that I once did. Those aircraft that were still available were prohibitively expensive for where I was in my life. Our kids were young, we were saving for college, and, to be quite honest, I wasn't feeling the love for aviation. The dry spell lasted for about two years - and it felt like an eternity.

The nagging feeling for flying never left. Being inactive in aviation was really hard. I know the old saying that, "sometimes life just gets in the way," but life didn't get in the way. I got in my own way. It was a familiar theme of making reasons why I couldn't fly. Fortunately, I had support from my wife that knew aviation was something I was just had to do. Eventually I went to a Rusty Pilot seminar, got signed off again, and now made the commitment to use my aviation skills for volunteerism. I gave myself a mission. Not only that, I decided to pursue a graduate degree in this stuff. In other words, I dove back in headfirst and now, there really was no turning back. My experience in and understanding of aviation grew immensely. This all really started to roll about six years after I first started flying. Well, unless you count my first logged flight which happened about seventeen years prior to that. Yeah... more procrastination.

The flood gates were opened. Now I was on a roll. Within a short time, I was teaching ground school then started entertaining the idea of switching careers and working at a flight school. That decision took about two and a half more years, too! Are you seeing a theme? Eventually, here I am. My personal aviation journey continues to venture out further and further from my point of origin. I have flown big planes, little planes, fast planes and slow planes. I even bought a plane! When the challenges happened, I stumbled, sometimes fell, and sometimes stayed down a while. Each time, though, I got back up, dusted off, and kept going. It is important to recognize that aviation is a constant journey that will go on and on if you let it.

Roadblocks are annoying. Some things sting a little. Through it all, though, we have to keep our perspective, our vision, and eyes on the horizon. Nobody said this is easy because it isn't. Set your sights on the journey. That's the most important part.

GBA IN THE COMMUNITY

Girls on the Run

Great Basin Aviation is proud to coach a Girls on the Run team, a program that empowers young girls through running and dynamic lessons. This initiative helps girls build confidence, develop healthy habits, and learn essential life skills. By mentoring these young athletes, we're fostering their growth and encouraging them to dream big, both on the ground and in the skies. Together, we're building a brighter future, one run at a time.



Poker Night

Great Basin Aviation was proud to support a Poker Night aimed at raising funds for local Veterans' organizations. This event was a fantastic opportunity for our community to come together, enjoy a night of fun, and contribute to a meaningful cause. We're honored to help support the brave men and women who have served our country by backing initiatives that provide them with the necessary resources and support.



Career Days

Great Basin Aviation actively participates in local school career days, inspiring students by presenting the exciting possibilities within the field of aviation. By engaging with the community, we aim to ignite interest in aviation careers, fostering the next generation of pilots and aviation professionals.



Bring Your Kid to Work Day

Great Basin Aviation enthusiastically participated in KRNO's "Bring Your Kids to Work Day," offering young minds a hands-on experience with the fascinating world of aviation. By showcasing aircraft, flight operations, and the various career paths in aviation, they aim to instill a passion for aviation at a young age. This initiative highlights how cool and dynamic the industry is, inspiring future pilots and aviation enthusiasts.



