THE HOLD SHORT

A 31OCT-06NOV

TAKE THE EXTRA SECOND. YOUR AIRPLANE WILL APPRECIATE IT.

Cooler mornings, crisp air, and those mountain views, it's a pretty freaking incredible time to fly. The airplane has a little more pep, you're no longer sweating through your preflight, and Northern Nevada is showing off. This is the kind of flying that reminds you why you started. But cooler weather also brings wing covers. And wing covers bring a very important reminder: make sure they are OFF before lowering the flaps. They're here to protect the wings, not participate in your flight-control check. Plus, that flap push rod...it is a pricey little piece to pay for.

Before you climb in and start flipping switches, take an extra second to look at the airplane. Are the covers still on? Where are the straps? Is anything plugged in? Are people or equipment nearby? Know what's around the aircraft before you make something move. Preflight deserves your full attention, even when you've flown that airplane a hundred times. Familiarity can turn a deliberate inspection into a lap around the plane while your brain is already halfway to the practice area. Add a conversation, a phone notification, or the excitement of a beautiful flying day, and something obvious can get missed. We get it :)

Use your checklist, look at what you're checking, and pause when you're interrupted. If someone else helped remove covers or prepare the airplane, verify that everything is ready yourself. "I thought they got it" is a lousy way to discover something was overlooked. Situational awareness starts on the ramp, long before the engine does. Take in the whole picture, give yourself time, and save the rushing for absolutely nowhere.

Enjoy the cool-weather magic. Just make sure your airplane has its blankets off before you ask it to stretch.

REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

Your weekly friendly reminders:

- Monday night ground school: Our final session of the year is Monday, November 16. We'll take a holiday break and resume after the first of the year.
- Wing-cover season is here! Covers OFF before flaps DOWN. A quick walk-around is cheaper than a repair bill—and easier on the ego.
- Veterans Day hours: GBA will close at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, November 11. Thank you to all who have served!
- It is Holiday baking season...where are our treats? Thank you Cory for the scary cookies and scones, but ummm...

Preflight Detective

Think your preflight eyes are sharp? Find all five discrepancies and let the office know what you spotted. Bragging rights require a complete inspection.

