

THE HOLD SHORT

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10JAN - 16JAN

BRAGGING RIGHTS EARNED: THE GBA KESSEL RUN

Long ago (okay... recently) in a galaxy not so far away, two GBA pilots lined up on the runway, pushed the throttle forward, and made history. The GBA Kessel Run has officially been flown. Congratulations to **Sam Klem** and **Grant White**, the first two pilots to complete the Kessel Run in a little more than 12 parsecs, by visiting at least 12 different airports. Legends were made, logbooks were filled, and hyperspace was absolutely engaged. Not far behind them is Tim Adams, who is closing the gap quickly and proving that the Force is very much alive in the left seat at GBA. While the Star Wars theme is fun (and yes, the bragging rights are real), the Kessel Run is about far more than clever references and cool milestones. Exploring new airports is one of the most important ways pilots build real skill and confidence. Each unfamiliar runway sharpens planning, improves situational awareness, and forces pilots to adapt to new airspace, terrain, procedures, and weather considerations. Flying beyond your "home system" builds proficiency that can't be gained by repeating the same routes and patterns over and over again.

The Kessel Run encourages pilots to think bigger, plan smarter, and expand their comfort zones, because strong pilots aren't built in one traffic pattern. They're built by getting out there, exploring, and learning to fly well in new environments. That's how good pilots become great ones.

The mission isn't over. The GBA Kessel Run will continue, and there are plenty of systems left to explore. If you're ready to chart new airports, level up your skills, and earn your own place in the GBA galaxy, see Jenn or Cassidy to get started.

Remember: it's not about flying fast, it's about flying smart, flying far, and logging the parsecs along the way. May the Force, and the winds, be with you.

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!**

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GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT



**Porter Kenison -
Solo**

Porter Kenison SOLOED!!

Yes, that Porter, the self-proclaimed procrastinator, who somehow did not procrastinate his way to one of the biggest milestones in flight training. Growth happened at KRTS, runway 08 in N37JA this evening.

Hailing from Winnemucca, Porter carries that small-town pride in the best way: show up, work hard, and don't make excuses. Coming in after work, late flights, after-hours lessons, none of it stopped him. He didn't wait for the perfect schedule, perfect weather, or the stars to align. He just kept showing up and putting in the work, which is exactly how solos actually happen.

Porter also has a special talent for being able to sound like Donald Duck (a skill he responsibly keeps in his back pocket, ATC appreciates it). Jokes aside, this milestone came from discipline, consistency, and a willingness to learn even when it wasn't easy or convenient.

Huge shoutout to his CFI, Lucas Murphy, for the steady guidance, trust, and encouragement that helped Porter reach this moment.

Porter, enjoy that solo glow. You earned it the honest, hard-working, small-town way. Blue skies and many more milestones ahead.

Cue the power chord

Big congrats to Hudson Neal on earning his CFII today, and yes, he absolutely shredded that checkride. From dialing in approaches to dialing in guitar solos, Hudson proves that precision, timing, and feel matter whether you're on an ILS, a tee box, or ripping through Cliffs of Dover note-for-note (no big deal).

Flying and golfing... shocking combo, we know...But when he's not chasing greens or needles, he's cranking on the guitar and bringing serious rock-star energy to the cockpit and also, now the classroom.

Also a huge congrats to CFII Shane Smith for guiding this solo to the top of the charts, solid instruction, clean execution, encore-worthy results.

And heads up, GBA crew and students: Hudson isn't going anywhere. As our Private Pilot Ground School instructor, you're going to be seeing a lot more of this face around Great Basin Aviation, turning knowledge up to 11 and helping the next generation of pilots find their rhythm.

Well played, Hudsie Wudsie! New rating unlocked, amps turned up, and another GBA pilot proving that when preparation meets passion, the result is pure music.



**Hudson Neal -
CFII**



**Ravi Patel -
Solo**

Some students solo an airplane.

Others bring a whole lifetime of adventure with them. Today, Ravi Patel officially joined the solo club, lifting off from KRNO, Runway 17L, in N495SP, and honestly... this one just makes sense.

Ravi was born in Indiana, raised everywhere, and shaped by the kind of life that comes with multiple passports, multiple cultures, and an accent that depends entirely on jet lag. Bay Area. Mexico City. San Diego. Argentina. Spain. Tanzania. China. Mongolia. (Yes, Mongolia.) If aviation is about movement, perspective, and curiosity, Ravi has been training for this moment his entire life. A Fulbright Scholar and U.S. cultural ambassador, Ravi spent years representing our country abroad before deciding to add "pilot" to the résumé. Because when you've already gone around the world 20 times and flown through every longitude... the only logical next step is flying yourself.

He loves airplanes, history, food with actual flavor, and refuses to tolerate bland meals or Hawaiian pizza (hot pineapple, really??). When he's not flying, he's probably being a nerd (his words), explaining that Mongolia is neither Russia nor China, or crushing a Ben & Jerry's while casually knowing more about the world than Google.

Today's solo wasn't just a milestone, it was inevitable. Congrats, as well, to his CFI Cody Klein for his instruction and guidance for Ravi to hit this milestone, all before he heads back to Mongolia tomorrow.

Ravi, the logbook is officially catching up to the life. Well flown and well earned!

D**10JAN - 16JAN**

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

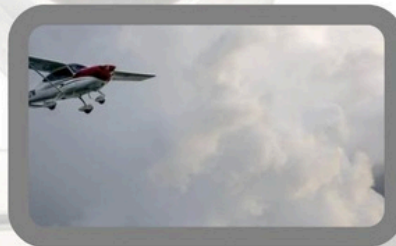
- Willingness to actively participate
- Commitment to completing assigned homework
- Consistent attendance and engagement during class sessions

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.