

# THE HOLD SHORT

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24JAN - 30JAN

## WHY PLATEAUS HAPPEN (AND WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU HIT ONE)

Most pilots will experience at least one plateau during flight training. Progress slows, consistency drops, and tasks that once felt manageable may suddenly feel more difficult. This can be frustrating, especially for students who are motivated and putting in the work.

Plateaus are a normal part of skill development. Early training often feels fast because the learning curve is steep and improvements are easy to see. As training progresses, the focus shifts from simply performing tasks to refining technique, correcting subtle habits, and building judgment. That deeper level of learning takes more time and is less visible from lesson to lesson. It's also common for plateaus to appear when life outside the cockpit becomes demanding. Work schedules, family responsibilities, fatigue, or stress can all affect performance, even when flying skills themselves are solid.

When a plateau occurs, pushing harder without reflection is rarely effective. A better approach is to pause, evaluate, and adjust. Open communication with your instructor is key. Sometimes a change in lesson structure, additional ground review, or time spent chair flying can make a significant difference. In some cases, a brief step back allows the information to settle and performance to stabilize.

If you ever feel stuck, discouraged, or unsure how to move forward, make sure you are communicating with your CFI or the GBA staff. You are not expected to navigate training challenges alone. We are here to help you evaluate where you are, adjust the plan if needed, and support you at every step along the way.

At Great Basin Aviation, plateaus are expected and planned for within our training programs. Progress is not always linear, and temporary slowdowns do not define a student's ability or long-term success. What matters most is steady commitment, honest self-assessment, and trust in the training process.

If training feels challenging right now, it does not mean you are falling behind. It often means you are building skills that will hold up under pressure, both in training and beyond.

## REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

- 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 are back! Private Pilot is the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 6pm-8pm. Advanced rating/certificate study groups will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, same time.



## Storm Gieringer - Pilot of the Month

### Pilot of the Month goes to Storm!!

Storm has been making awesome progress in his training and is one of those students who just gets it. He shows up consistently, puts in the work, and always brings a positive attitude even when flying decides to keep things interesting. No bad vibes, no complaining, just ready to learn and improve every time he walks through the door.

When he's not flying, Storm is working at Scheels, probably talking sports, fantasy football, or repping the Steelers (even though we definitely don't all agree there). He's also one of the nicest people you'll meet around the school, especially to the office staff. Always friendly, always respectful, always in a good mood and it absolutely does not go unnoticed.

Huge shoutout to his instructor, Andy, for helping Storm keep the momentum going and build confidence in the airplane. From Bay Area roots to pilot goals, Storm is doing things the right way and we're pumped to have him as our Pilot of the Month.

Big congratulations to Tyler Shelton on officially passing his Private Pilot checkride!

Tyler's path to his PPL feels less like a straight line and more like a highlight reel of "how does this keep happening to one person?," and yet somehow, he just keeps smiling, laughing, and showing up ready to learn. Hurricanes (yes, Hurricane Katrina), hitchhikers, wild stories and the absolute nonsense that seems to occur every single time he solos... if chaos had a co-pilot, it would be Tyler.

Through all of it, Tyler never lost his curiosity, work ethic, or sense of humor. No matter what curveball showed up, aviation-related or otherwise, he trusted the process, leaned in, and kept pushing forward. That perseverance showed loud and clear on checkride day. Tyler is pure GBA gold. Effortlessly funny, endlessly kind, and somehow always wearing the coolest shirts in the building, and shorts even for his early morning frosty flights. He's an unreal baker and cook (a fact the office benefits from regularly), casually upgraded our lives by gifting us a dart board, and instantly cemented his status as a flight school legend.

Huge shoutout to his instructor, Lucas Murphy, whose steady guidance, trust, and well-timed laughs helped turn Tyler's controlled chaos into checkride success. Their teamwork made all the difference.

Tyler, your ability to handle life's absolute nonsense with a grin, learn through it all, and still have fun makes this achievement so well deserved. We're incredibly proud of you, and honestly a little scared of what story comes next.



## Tyler Shelton - Private Pilot

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

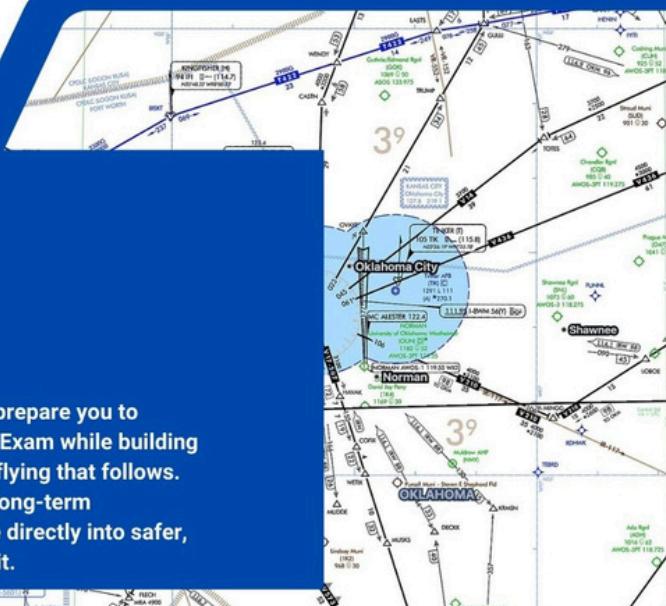


# INSTRUMENT GROUND SCHOOL

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](mailto: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.