

THE HOLD SHORT

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28 DEC - 03 JAN

GROUND TRAINING: STILL FLIGHT TRAINING

Let's face it—flying is the ultimate goal when you come to the flight school. But when Mother Nature decides to ground us with less-than-ideal weather, it doesn't mean your progress has to stall. Ground training is just as essential as time spent in the air. It builds the foundation for everything you do as a pilot, giving you the knowledge to handle any situation and make informed decisions. In other words, ground training propels you forward—pun absolutely intended!

This winter, as the weather gets a little unpredictable, we're doubling down on ground training opportunities to keep your progress on track. We'll be offering supplemental classes to enhance your learning and keep you engaged while you wait for those sunny skies to return. Want to dive deeper into cross-country planning? Brush up on airspace regulations? Let us know what topics you'd like covered, and we'll do our best to make it happen! Remember, every great pilot is grounded in knowledge. So embrace the ground training days—they're every bit as important as the time spent soaring above the clouds. Keep an eye out for texts from your instructor about these classes, or Richard spreading the word, and let's make the most of this season together.

See you in the classroom (and eventually, back in the skies)!

REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

- **The Monday Night Study group** will start up again on January 16th. Stay tuned for more details!
- Watch for wing covers and frost. **DO NOT** put the flaps down with the wing covers on.
- In the event of frost formation on your aircraft, you and your CFI will be put to work in helping remove it. Please make sure you have a line technician or a CFI helping you with frost removal. Teamwork is crucial here!
- **Top of The Hour Reservations** - All GBA flights are scheduled on the hour, not the half-hour, to keep operations efficient. This helps ensure planes are fueled without delays, prevents instructor scheduling overlaps, and keeps training on track.



**BEN BENESCH –
PRIVATE**

Yes, you did just hear about this guy's solo, but now, the talented and ever-humble Ben Benesch aced his private pilot checkride! True to form, Ben's quiet demeanor means you probably wouldn't have heard about his achievement if we didn't shout it from the rooftops for him. But milestones like this deserve to be celebrated, and we're so thrilled to share this incredible accomplishment with Ben today. While the C172 became his trusty training partner here at GBA, Ben tackled every challenge with determination and grit, mastering the finer points of the airplane along the way. That said, his heart has always belonged to tailwheel flying. With his private pilot license in hand, we have no doubt that he can't wait to return to the skies in his own plane. Ben, your hard work and dedication have paid off, and we're so incredibly proud of you for reaching this milestone. Let's give a huge congratulations to Ben and his flight instructor, James Morgan, for being part coach, part cheerleader, and full-time mentor throughout this journey. Congratulations, Ben—we can't wait to see where this license takes you and how you continue to soar to new heights!

Big congrats to Cody Bullard, who just rocked his solo flight in N670CS at KSPZ! Cody's no rookie when it comes to aviation—he's been flying helicopters for the Army National Guard for years. But now, he's trading rotors for wings as he adds a fixed-wing rating to his already impressive résumé. Honestly, Cody is basically an aviation wizard. Flying helicopters? Check. Getting a degree in mechanical engineering? Check. Crushing his fixed-wing training? Double-check. It's no surprise that he's made it this far, but it's still awesome to see him hitting new heights—literally and figuratively. This solo is a huge milestone and proof of Cody's passion and dedication to flying. Whether it's a helicopter or an airplane, Cody's skills and determination make it clear that the sky is where he belongs. Shoutout to Cody's instructor, Ryan Mill, for helping guide him through this journey. Ryan, you're the MVP! Cody, we're so excited to see what's next for you. Whether it's in the air or on the ground, you're absolutely crushing it. Keep flying high, and congrats again on this epic milestone!



**CODY BULLARD –
SOLO**