

# THE HOLD SHORT

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08 FEB - 14 FEB

## WHY WE LOVE AVIATION

With Valentine's Day today, we're feeling extra grateful for our true love—aviation! At Great Basin Aviation, we're passionate about flying, not just because it gives us the freedom to soar, but because we get to share that passion with all of you.

We love aviation because it's adventurous, challenging, and endlessly rewarding. There's nothing quite like the feeling of those wheels leaving the ground, mastering a maneuver you've been working on, or experiencing the pure joy of flight. But what we love even more is watching you all, our students, grow. From your first preflight inspection to your first solo and beyond.

Teaching you all to fly is more than a job—it's our passion. Seeing that "aha" moment when everything clicks, the excitement of a first solo, or the pride of a checkride pass makes every early morning, every weather delay, and every lesson worth it. You're not just students, you're part of an aviation family, and we're honored to be part of your journey.

So this Valentine's Day, know that our hearts belong to aviation, but we love sharing the skies with you.

## REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

- 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!
- Please pay attention to your parking at the end of the day. A parking map will be posted on top of the locker. If you have questions interpreting the map, please let me know and I'll answer your questions.
- Please report any anomalies before flying and any issues or damage immediately after the flight to ensure safety and airworthiness.



## RYAN MADOLE: SOLO

Hold the phone! Did you know Ben Novello's a pilot? Do you need proof? Well, I guess you can say soloing an airplane is proof enough! That's right, Ben Novello, the dirt bike riding, Tahoe bumming, snowboard junkie has officially conquered the ultimate achievement: solo flight! As you can see, Ben was only a little excited that he soloed... Ben came in as cool as a cucumber, primed and ready to kick his flight instructor, Eric Harned, out of the plane. After a few practice laps, the consensus was made: the skies were ready for Ben. He took off out of KRTS in N670CS and buttered all his landings on runway 8! What an incredible accomplishment! Ben, you'll truly will never forget your solo flight and we're happy that we were able to be a part of this incredible milestone. Let's give Ben and Eric and huge congratulations on this absolutely incredibly achievement! Ben, that dream of riding your dirt bike to your plane "Maverick style" will become a reality soon enough. Awesome work!

Well, howdy there, partner! Ain't it just the purtiest mornin' down here in the valley? Sure beats all that rain and snow we been sloggin' through! Now, I reckon you mighta heard the latest buzz 'round these parts—word is, there's a new cowboy in town. Ain't just any ol' greenhorn, neither. They say he's got wings like an eagle and a reputation to match... Alright, alright, I'll drop the act—but had to tip my hat to Ryan's love for country music. All jokes aside, today's a rootin'-tootin' kind of day 'cause the one and only Ryan Madole saddled up and took to the skies solo for the first time in N37JA at KRTS on runway 26! To set the scene for y'all, Ryan strutted in this mornin' with a gleam of pure determination in his eyes. Without a moment's hesitation, he kicked his instructor, Andrew Spanier, to the curb and took the reins solo. And when his wheels kissed the ground? Well, let's just say that runway's now slicker than a fresh batch of churned butter in the mornin'.

Let's give Ryan and his high-flyin' flight instructor, Andrew Spanier, a yeehawwww and congratulations on this amazing accomplishment! Awesome work to the both of you!



## BEN NOVELLO: SOLO



**NICK SUNDSTROM –  
COMMERCIAL**

Oh lawrd y'all. Say your prayers, because it's finally happened. The troublemaker you all know and love, Nick Sundstrom, has once again surpassed another incredible milestone and earned his commercial rating today! From the baby steps of solo, the rigor of instrument, the pride in earning pilot of the month, and now being a pilot for hire, Nick Sundstrom has truly shown us all that his unwavering dedication and love for aviation has allowed him to conquer some of the most challenging of aviation goals. Whether he's flying across the United States in his family's RV, nailing his power-off 180s, or drilling in his ground, Nick does it all with an insatiable grit and passion. While we thrive off of giving Nick a hard time, it has truly been a privilege to watch him conquer one checkride after the next, making him that much closer to his dream of flying professionally. Let's give Nick and his partner in crime/ flight instructor, Ryan Mill, a huge congratulations on getting to this amazing milestone. We can't wait to see what Nick accomplishes next!

If there's one thing we know about Taylor Pritchard, it's that he doesn't do anything halfway. Whether it's dominating GeoGuessr, racing his bike, or being the best dog dad to his dachshund, Minnie—Taylor is always chasing the next big adventure. For example, just yesterday he was shredding down the slopes, and today? Well, he's officially a commercial pilot!

That's right everyone, Taylor is officially a pilot for hire! Taylor's journey to the skies has been fueled by pure determination, countless hours of training, and an unshakable passion for aviation. From his early days as a flight sim fanatic to becoming a real-world flying machine, he has pushed himself every step of the way. His commitment and love for the craft have set him apart as he continues his path toward becoming a professional pilot. A huge congratulations to Taylor on this massive accomplishment and a big thank you to his flight instructor, Shane Smith, for helping him refine his skills and reach this milestone. Knowing Taylor, this is just another chapter in his adventure-filled life, and we absolutely can't wait to see what he takes on next! Keep soaring high, Taylor!



**TAYLOR PRITCHARD –  
COMMERCIAL**