

# THE HOLD SHORT

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15 FEB - 21 FEB

## WHY IS OUR FLIGHT SCHOOL SO STRICT?

We hear it now and then—"Why is Great Basin Aviation so strict?" It's a fair question, and we get it. Flying is supposed to be fun, and adding rules, structure, and policies might feel like they take some of that fun away. But here's the reality: our job is to keep you safe and alive in a high risk industry.

Aviation is an incredible privilege, but it also comes with responsibility, risk, and liability—not just for you, but for everyone around you. Many of our policies exist because accidents in this industry are often preventable. The procedures we follow aren't about making your training harder; they're about making sure you develop the skills and mindset needed to be a competent, confident, and safe pilot. These cannot be rushed. You can fastrack your training anytime; we have the resources for it, but fastrack programming and rushing are two different things.

We are not just a flight school—we are a community business. That means when we succeed, our instructors, staff, and the people who support you succeed. If we were to compromise on safety and something happened, it doesn't just affect one person—it impacts everyone. Our instructors are your neighbors, your friends, and your mentors.

If you want to be a career pilot, we've got you. Just take a look at our walls covered with the names of past students who have gone on to professional flying careers. If you want to be a hobby flyer, we've got you too. Many of our students fly for fun, and they still get the same high-quality, safety-focused training that keeps them flying for years to come.

We know what works. We've seen the results. And while we won't apologize for holding our students to a high standard, we will promise you this: when you train with us, you're training with a school that puts your safety, your success, and your successful future first.

And please, ask questions! Understanding the why behind a policy, procedure, or standard eliminates confusion and helps you become a more informed and prepared pilot. We are here to support you, teach you, and help you reach your aviation goals — trust the process, and we'll get you there.

## 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.



## JOE ARANGO – INSTRUMENT

Joe Arango: certified Atlantic Aviation line technician, evening line tech for GBA, and now instrument rated pilot! That's right, everyone! Joe has officially conquered the world of IFR flying, proving once again that his dedication to aviation knows no bounds. From keeping the ramp running smoothly to grinding through endless instrument approaches, he's been fully immersed in aviation from every angle—and today, it all paid off! If you've ever met Joe, you know he doesn't just dabble in aviation—he lives it. Balancing work, training, and those long nights deciphering approach plates, he's put in the time, effort, and sheer determination to master the art of flying in the clouds. Whether he was begging his instructor to peek outside or perfecting his approaches, Joe has shown exactly what it takes to succeed in instrument flying: patience, focus, and an unshakable drive. A huge congratulations to Joe and his CFII, Ryan Mill, on this incredible milestone! The skies just got a little smoother with Joe at the controls. We can't wait to see what he tackles next!

Heute, we celebrate Jürgen Hirt's latest achievement in his aviation journey: his Commercial Pilot's License! Jürgen is ready to take off into the skies, bringing a little German precision to every flight! A recent graduate of the University of Nevada, Reno, with a degree in Economics, Jürgen's journey to aviation has been a smooth ascent—thanks to his knack for detail, which he sharpened as a bassoon player in the UNR orchestra. Originally from Augsburg, Germany, he's now ready to offer his flying services for hire, ensuring your experience is German-engineered for perfection. Whether you're looking for a quick flight or a scenic Bavarian-styledetour, Jürgen's steady hand and calm demeanor will keep you on course. Special thanks to his CFI, Richard Brong, for helping him navigate this milestone with precision! Ready to take off? Jürgen's here to make your flight experience as smooth as a German beer!



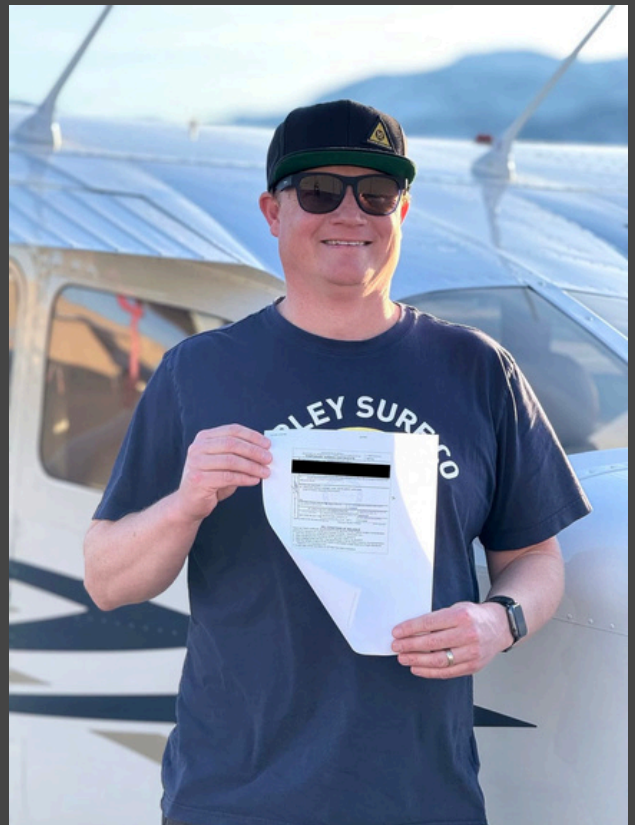
## JÜRGEN HIRT – COMMERCIAL



**REED BENNETT –  
CFII**

Tommy Kelly, a high-flyer both in the sky and in life, just took his aviation journey to new heights by earning his instrument rating! Hailing from Truckee, California, Tommy has always had a knack for seeing things from a unique perspective—whether it's capturing star-studded moments as a photographer at the Academy Awards or soaring through the clouds with his kids in tow. His recent achievement in aviation shows that Tommy's skills go far beyond just pointing a camera; now he's confidently navigating through clouds with instruments, instead of just focusing on a lens. Between family fun and flight school, this dad is truly 'taking off' in every sense. With his instrument rating now in hand, Tommy's ready to 'navigate' the skies with precision, making every flight a first-class adventure! Huge congrats to Tommy and a big shout-out to his CFII, Shane Smith, for helping him reach this sky-high milestone!

Reed Bennett has officially earned his Certified Flight Instructor-Instrument (CFII) rating! After months of hard work, determination, and expert guidance from his instructor and dad, Bob Bennett, Reed has reached this impressive milestone in his aviation journey as Reed prepares to head to Alaska for work, this new achievement couldn't have come at a better time. With the vast, rugged terrain and unpredictable weather of the Last Frontier ahead, Reed is more than ready for the challenges that await. Whether it's flying through mountain ranges or navigating tricky weather patterns, this CFII rating is sure to serve him well on every flight. A huge congratulations to Reed for this remarkable accomplishment, and of course, a big shout-out to Bob for his unwavering support and instruction throughout the process. Reed's journey is just getting started, and with his skills and determination, there's no doubt he'll continue to reach new heights. Keep soaring, Reed—Alaska's skies won't know what hit them!



**TOMMY KELLY –  
INSTRUMENT**