

THE HOLD SHORT

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05APR- 11APR

LESSONS FROM THE LINE: WHAT RAMP WORK TEACHES YOU

Before they were instructors, many of our team members started on the ramp—as line techs, learning the ropes the hard way. Whether it was washing bellies, towing planes into tight hangars, or scrubbing bugs off wings in 100° heat, they gained more than just hands-on experience. They built a foundation of awareness, discipline, and respect that carries into every flight they take today.

Situational awareness. Attention to detail. Communication. Safety. Teamwork. These are core aviation principles, and they're learned just as much on the ground as they are in the sky. Knowing how the operation works behind the scenes makes you a better pilot in the cockpit—more prepared, more mindful, and more connected to the bigger picture. Ramp work teaches you to anticipate, to check things twice, and to appreciate the critical role that everyone, from mechanics to office staff to fuelers, plays in getting that aircraft off the ground safely.

As a student pilot, the next time you're walking out for a preflight or rolling back into the tie-down, remember: flying doesn't start at rotation and end at shutdown. The habits you build on the ground will shape who you are in the air.

So take your time. Be thorough. Think like a line tech. It might not be glamorous, but it'll make you a better pilot.

REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

- Need some study buddies? Don't forget about Private Pilot Study Groups on the 1st and 3rd Monday, 6pm–8pm. **Need Instrument Ground School help, those will be the 2nd and 4th Mondays 6pm–8pm.**
- 6am flights will be starting May 1st. Watch Flight Schedule Pro for updates.
- Looking for ground school supplement courses? Ask the office about upcoming course offerings. The schedule is out through July.
- Check out these scholarship opportunities: **Fasiang Future of Flight Scholarship**, Website: <https://bold.org/scholarships/fasiang-future-of-flight-scholarship/> and **Reno Air Racing Association Flight Training Scholarship**, Website: <https://airrace.org/flight-training-scholarships/>



**SHELBY SELLERS –
INSTRUMENT**

Hello! Or, if you're Shelby Sellers, Nǐ hǎo! Today is a fantastic day for this lady of languages and prime time adventurer because Shelby Sellers has officially conquered her instrument checkride! That's right everyone, if Shelby wasn't already awesome enough, this is surely the icing on the cake. Shelby has been deciphering approach plates, understanding the innerworkings of a WAAS GPS, flying the most beautiful straight lines, and conquering the world of IFR flight. With all that said, she can now navigate her way through the clouds with precision and elegance. Shelby is always keeping us entertained in the office. From teaching us words in Mandarin (she could be teaching us pretty obscene things and we wouldn't know the difference, so hopefully it's PG), gushing over her last fantasy book with Hailey, or telling us about her crazy amazing life, Shelby is truly one fantastic human being that we've had the utmost privilege of working with. Shelby, the time has come. After those grueling hours under the foggles, it's time to take them off and enjoy the views. Let's give Shelby, and her CFII, Ryan Mill, a huge congratulations on this amazing achievement! Incredibly well deserved! Keep it up Shelby and go fly!

Deep gravely voice It's Sunday, Sunday, SUNDAYYY! And today you're in for a thrill as you watch the epic Mitchell Martin soar to extreme heights as he solos at KRNO on runway 17L in N752DW *crowd cheering*! Mitchell Martin has some pretty amazing motorcycle skills (hence me trying to be a monster truck announcer... just role with it) and today he took to the skies and absolutely dominated the pattern here at KRNO while his flight instructor, Eric Harned, watched from the sidelines with a big smile on his face. Mitchell has been dreaming of this moment for a while now... I mean, when you're an adrenaline junky like this guy, how can you not? Battling weather delays and fighting the wind, Mitchell finally found his window of opportunity and capitalized on it. When Mitchell isn't studying hard, flying like a madman, or riding motorcycles, you can find him laying down some smooth saxophone jams, enjoying the powder on his skis, or gorging himself on a big ol' plate of pizza and wings. Mitchell, it's so awesome to see you reach this incredible milestone. Let's give Mitchell and Eric Harned a huge round of applause on this absolutely amazing achievement!! Awesome work, Mitchell! Keep up the momentum!



**MITCHELL MARTIN –
SOLO**



**ALEX MONROE –
INSTRUMENT**

Alex Monroe, a high-flyer both in the sky and in life, just took his aviation journey to new heights by earning his instrument rating! When he's not out skiing down the slopes or working the line at Stellar Aviation, you can bet he's in his trusty Cub, flying in true bush-pilot style. Whether it's navigating tricky backcountry airstrips or flying through those low visibility days, Alex now has the skills to handle it all with confidence and precision. 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. After those grueling hours under the foggles, it's time to take them off and enjoy the views. Let's give Alex, and his CFI, Ryan Mill, a huge congratulations on this amazing achievement!

From Georgia to the sky, Derrick Craine is ready to peach his way to new heights with his commercial pilot's license! Our line tech warrior, biggest smile award winner, loudest laugh echoing down the hallway, and Waffle House aficionado is now a pilot for hire! Derrick is no stranger to handling pressure, whether it's on the football field at the University of Tennessee or in the cockpit. When Derrick's not flying, you'll find him in South Lake Tahoe, either chasing after his daughter's latest adventure or swinging for birdies on the golf course—because even when he's grounded, he's still aiming high! While we love giving Derrick 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. The next time you see this country fella, give him some of that southern hospitality and wish him a huge congratulations, he's certainly earned it! Awesome job, Derrick! And a huge shoutout to his CFI Eric Harned! We hear CFI is right around the corner...



**DERRICK CRAINE –
COMMERCIAL**



ALEX FLOREZ – INSTRUMENT

A huge congratulations to Alex Florez, who successfully passed his instrument checkride today! With his newly polished instrument skills, he's ready to take on the clouds with confidence and precision. When he's not soaring through IFR conditions, you can catch him revving up his engines on the ground—whether it's at the gym, or behind the wheel of a car, Alex is all about horsepower and high performance. One thing's for sure: this guy doesn't just lift off, he lifts heavy too. Huge congratulations to Alex and his flight instructor, Shane Smith, who instructed Alex on the ins and outs of navigating through the stormy world of instrument flying. Alex, as you cruise into this new chapter of your flying, one thing is clear: the skies might be overcast, but your future is looking bright!

Today marks an illustrious occasion, as the fair and formidable Scholarship Queen herself—Kiera Grange—checks yet another incredible milestone off her ever-impressive docket. That's right, fellow townsfolk, gather 'round and rejoice, for the queen has officially passed her instrument checkride and can now soar through the clouds with full IFR glory! (Okay, okay—I'll drop the queen act before Kiera embraces it too quickly and has us all bowing down to her royal highness. Just kidding... mostly .) Let's be real: Kiera is a whirlwind of drive and determination. She's always reaching for the next big, bold goal—and more often than not, she gets it, usually while snagging scholarships along the way like it's a competitive sport. In the midst of juggling the demanding world of flight training, devouring study material, conquering Bob's infamous instrument ground school, training for triathlons, and working approximately a trillion and one jobs, Kiera has conquered her instrument rating. And honestly? No one is surprised. Let's give a massive round of applause to Kiera—and a heartfelt shoutout to her CFII, Danny Britson, who guided Kiera every step of the way. Incredible work, both of you! Keep soaring, Kiera—that commercial checkride is just around the corner!



KIERA GRANGE – INSTRUMENT