

THE HOLD SHORT

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20 APR - 26 APR

NAVIGATING THE DPE SHORTAGE: MANAGING FLIGHT TRAINING REALISTICALLY

Flight school students nationally are facing a significant hurdle in their training journey due to the shortage of designated pilot examiners (DPEs). This scarcity has led to frustrating delays in scheduling checkrides, causing setbacks in completing training milestones. We hear you and know the frustration. Many of us (staff and instructors) have been in the same situation on our aviation journey.

As you navigate through your flight training program, it's crucial to remain patient and adaptable in the face of these challenges. Be realistic about your training timelines and stay in close communication with your instructors to adjust your plans accordingly.

Consider exploring alternative options, such as working toward your next rating while staying proficient with current requirements or the SIM for practice, to help stay on track despite the shortage. Our local DPEs are doing what they can to help, but right now demand far exceeds the examiners we have. Remember, perseverance and determination will ultimately lead you to success in your aviation pursuits.

REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

- We will flip the switch for 6am starts on May 1st. Solo pilots should hold off booking 6am for a few weeks until it is legal sunrise. Chat with your CFI for more info.
- Watch for sunshades to return soon! And a helpful video for how to install them :)
- If you would like to be part of the Study Group or Pilot Sharing What's Apps, please contact the office and we will add you.



**JARED GARRIDO –
SOLO**

What a beautiful week of flying and what an even better day to solo! The man, the myth, the legend, Jared Garrido, soloed today at the beautiful KRNO on runway 17L in N670CS! The best thing about students soloing at KRNO (other than the fact that it's totally epic) is that Hailey gets to stalk students on the downwind by looking out the window... and we can confirm that she gave his pattern work the chef's kiss. Also adding to this amazing moment, Jared's dad was on the sideline cheering him on and watching the whole time. When Jared isn't crushing the game with his flying, you can find him booing the Dodgers, impressing all the ladies with his math skills, or working towards graduating high school as a Junior to pursue aviation more seriously! Jared is shooting for the airlines and it's incredible to see him take his first steps in pursuing that dream. Huge congratulations to Jared and his CFI, Alex Spencer, on getting to this amazing goal! Great work, Jared!

Hey Reno aviators, Mason Maltese just rocked his solo flight at the awesome KRNO, runway 17L, in N495SP! Mason might be a Vegas transplant (hey, we won't hold that against him), but he's making waves up here in Reno faster than you can say "blackjack"! Despite all the distractions out there for a college kid, Mason stayed focused, put in the work, and now he's soaring high! And let's give a round of applause to his CFI, Alex Spencer, for shedding those extra pounds (from the plane, not himself) and helping Mason take to the skies solo. From the glitz of Vegas to the charm of Reno, Mason is proving that it's not just about where you're from, but where you're headed. And with his determination and passion for flight, there's no telling how far he'll go! So here's to Mason, the newest addition to Reno's aviation scene. Keep chasing those dreams, Mason!



**MASON MALTESE –
SOLO**



**DERRICK CRAINE –
SOLO**

Y'all better hold onto your hats 'cause we got ourselves a solo superstar in the making! Derrick Craine just took to the skies solo at KRNO, runway 17L, proving that southern charm knows no bounds! And let me tell y'all, the KRNO pattern was busier than a Georgia Waffle House on a Sunday morning, but Derrick handled it like a true southern gentleman. Derrick's a southern boy through and through, hailing all the way from the peachy state, and let me tell ya, his accent is as sweet as Georgia peaches on a hot summer day! Now, Derrick ain't just any ol' pilot-in-training. Nope, he's a multitasking maestro, driving in from South Lake, juggling dad duties, family time, working, and also keeping things in line as one of GBA's weekend line guys. And let's not forget that infectious smile of his that lights up the whole dang airport.

Huge shoutout to Derrick's wingman, CFI extraordinaire Eric Harned, for guiding him through those first solo flights. With mentors like that, Derrick's future in the skies is brighter than a Georgia sunrise! Keep shining, Derrick! The skies ain't seen nothin' like you yet!