

THE HOLD SHORT

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14JUN - 20JUN

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: DENSITY ALTITUDE

FLYING OUT OF RENO, NV – WHERE THE GROUND IS HIGH, AND THE AIR GETS THIN FAST.

If you've flown out of KRNO, especially on a warm summer afternoon, you've likely noticed: takeoffs feel longer, climbouts feel weaker, and the airplane seems just a little more tired than usual. That's not your imagination, that's density altitude doing its thing.

What is density altitude, really? In simple terms, density altitude is the altitude the airplane thinks it's at, based on temperature, pressure, and humidity. While Reno sits at 4,415 feet MSL, summer days can push the density altitude well past 7,000 feet, sometimes even higher. The air gets thinner, and your 172 has to work a lot harder to perform the same tasks.

How does this impact your flight?

- Longer takeoff rolls: Thinner air = less lift = more runway.
- Reduced climb performance: That steady 700–800 fpm climb? Not happening today.
- Sluggish acceleration: Especially with full fuel, passengers, and a warm engine.
- Less power: Thinner air also means less oxygen for your engine to breathe.

Tips for flying GBA's C172s in high DA:

- Adhere to the heat restrictions.
- Use your performance charts. The POH is there for a reason. Get familiar with it.
- Lean for best power before takeoff. Especially at high-elevation airports like KRNO.
- Watch your runway length. Don't assume your usual performance will apply.
- Climb at Vy, not VHollywood. Cool, confident, and safe is the goal.
- Especially for pre solo and solo students, fly early. Morning flights beat the heat, and the density altitude that comes with it.
- Don't forget, instrument training can happen at night. Book once the sun goes down and it has cooled off. You aren't looking out the window anyway 😊

Our fleet of GBA C172s are dependable and well-equipped, but they can't override physics. Flying out of Reno in the summer means planning ahead and flying smart. Don't shortcut performance planning, respect density altitude, and you'll stay ahead of the game.

Need help with performance calculations or want to talk through a summer strategy? Come find us. Richard is always happy to nerd out with you.

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. Instrument Ground School help, those will be the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 6pm–8pm.
- Do not add unnecessary oil. If it is at 6, you are good. Adding extra "just because" is a waste, and it just burns off. Check the POH for oil requirements.



**CAMERON MORRILL –
PRIVATE**

You know it's about to get interesting when Cam starts off a sentence with, "Hey Jenn, I have a question for you..." and as the picture suggests, we couldn't think of a more fitting a way for Cameron Morrill to celebrate the success of earning his Private Pilot License! That's right everyone, Cam had a bottle champagne primed and ready to go for this all-time celebration, and it truly did not disappoint. While there were technical difficulties in getting the classic champagne-celebration-picture, the outcome was an awesome success. Cam, you've been a whirlwind of studying and flying and it's an absolute privilege to see you finally summit this mountain. We are so incredibly proud of you, and we truly can't wait to see you keep moving forward to crush your further ratings. But for now, this is definitely an accomplishment that will live in the memory banks and one that deserves some major time in the sun. Let's give Cam and his flight instructor, James Morgan, who has been with Cam through every step of the way, a massive congratulations on this groundbreaking accomplishment! Now get out there and enjoy those skies, Cam! Instrument is just on the horizon.

Kayleigh Dohm is GBA's June Pilot of the Month! A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away... their lived a young hobbit name Kayleigh Dohm who knew she had a glorious destiny to roam the skies. From daydreaming of hurricane hunting and airborne geophysics, to crocheting and tending to her lovely plants, many have come to learn that Kayleigh has more personality in one of her pinky fingers than most do in their entire beings. Kayleigh is incredibly passionate for many things. From Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, hockey, and a recently discovered love for the gift of flight. Kayleigh has been working diligently towards her flight training these last couple of months. From drilling in her ground school, dealing with her instructor's antics (sorry Greg), all while also getting her Master of Science in geophysics at UNR this last Spring... truly, this woman is incredible! Kayleigh, you've been putting in some excellent work recently and we have no doubt you're going to do some truly incredible things with your aviation career. Keep up the amazing work, Kayleigh, and continue to soar high!



**KAYLEIGH DOHM –
PILOT OF THE MONTH**