THE HOLD SHORT

WE PICKED UP THREE YARDS ON THE OPENING PLAY, WHICH IS ABOUT HOW FAR I MADE IT THROUGH MY COFFEE BEFORE THE PHONE RANG.

A **14NOV-20NOV**

YOU BOOKED THE AIRPLANE. WE HELD IT FOR YOU.

Miss a haircut or cancel a doctor's appointment at the last minute, and there's a good chance you'll see a fee. They set aside that time for you and may have already told someone else it was taken. Why would flight training be any different? Your hairstylist only has to hold a chair. We're holding an airplane and an instructor.

When you book a lesson at GBA, your instructor plans their day around it, and that airplane is yours for the scheduled time. If you give us a heads-up early enough, we can usually find someone who'd happily take the spot. There's almost always a student looking to squeeze in a lesson before work or get a little more practice before a checkride. By the time the lesson is supposed to start, though, that student has made plans of their own. An early heads-up gets us six more yards downfield and gives somebody else a shot at that morning slot.

We love teaching people to fly, and we're also running a small business. The airplane still needs insurance, a place to park, and maintenance. Your instructor set aside time they could have spent flying with another student. That's why we have a cancellation policy and why we apply it consistently when a fee is due.

We get it. Work runs over, kids get sick, and some days go sideways before you've even had your coffee. If you're sick, exhausted, or otherwise unfit to fly, make the safe call. And when you know your plans are changing, please give us a heads-up as soon as you can. You don't have to have your whole week figured out before you let us know.

Owning your schedule is part of being a pilot. Keep track of the time you've reserved, show up ready when you can fly, and communicate early when you need to change plans. The student who finally gets that coveted morning spot will thank you. Their alarm clock might have some opinions.

One more thing before we head into **Thanksgiving.** We are grateful for the people who make GBA what it is. To our students and renters, thank you for choosing to fly with us and for cheering each other on through first solos, checkrides, and the occasional landing we'll generously call "firm." And to our instructors and crew, thank you for all the work you do behind the scenes to get people in the air. Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at GBA. We hope you get some time with your favorite people, a second helping of pie, and at least one conversation where you can make sure everyone knows you are a pilot.

REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

Your weekly friendly reminders:

- Wing covers off. Then flaps down. Give both wings a quick look before you touch the flap switch. That's a four-yard gain for the team and a win for whoever does not have to explain things to maintenance.
- Monday night ground school has wrapped up for the year. We'll take the final seven yards and call it a day. Please celebrate clear of the prop.
- Check out the schedule for our Thanksgiving hours. We will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and have limited hours the day before.
- We started on our opponent's 20-yard line and hid four football plays in this week's Hold Short. Add up the yardage and tell us where the drive ended.

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GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT



Cory David- IPR

Holy holding patterns, Batman! Cory David, better known around GBA as Capt Turb, earned his instrument rating today!

Cory is one half of our resident Batman and Robin duo with Julius, his BPF (Best Pilot Friend). The two have been training side by side, and we'll let them fight over who gets to be Batman. Around here, whoever shows up with homemade treats gets first dibs on the cape. Advantage, Cory.

Before flight training, Cory was a country club golf pro, so he already knew a thing or two about a good approach. Now he can brief one, too.

His goal is to become a professional pilot with a scratch handicap, which sounds ambitious for a guy who says one of his hobbies is "pretending to be active."

There was a whole lot of actual work behind this one. Instrument training asks you to fly precisely, stay ahead of the airplane, and keep your scan going while ATC picks that exact moment to give you one more thing to copy. It takes focus to manage all of that and discipline to come back and fly the same approach again when you know you can do it better. Cory put in the study time and the "Gauntlet" reps, and we're proud to see that work pay off today.

Cory brings a genuinely positive attitude to the airport, shares his homemade treats with the crew, and actually reads The Hold Short. Yes, we notice.

Awesome job to his instructor, Lucas Murphy, for helping Cory get checkride-ready. Enjoy this one, Capt Turb. You earned it! Commercial is up next. but first a Cory goodbye Every time Cory leaves, he says something that sounds like it came straight off a wooden sign at Hobby Lobby but he swears he's never been. This one's for you Cory.... Fly high, stay humble, and let your blessings pile up like clouds.

November Pilot of the Month — Cameron Johnson! ✈️

Roll out the red carpet (or clear a little space on the ramp) for GBA's November Pilot of the Month, Cameron Johnson!

Cameron is genuinely one of the kindest, most outgoing people we know. He's the guy you stop to say hi to on your way out and somehow end up talking to for another 20 minutes. On his info sheet, he listed "conversation" as something he's very good at and said his favorite thing about himself is that he gets along with nearly everyone. After getting to know him around GBA, we'd say "nearly" is him being modest.

Cameron brings that same energy to the cockpit. He's been absolutely crushing his training with his instructor, Greg, and it's been so much fun watching him get better at something he's this excited about. We're proud of the work you're putting in, Cameron, and of the way you make people feel welcome every time you walk through our doors. You make GBA a little more fun to be around, and we're lucky to have you here.

A few things you should know about our November honoree. He's from Newcastle, California, he loves rockets, and his favorite foods are pizza and donuts. When he's away from the airport, he says he's "gaining or losing money in the market." And when asked what he wants to be when he grows up? "Pilot, lol." Greg, we think you're onto something with this one.

Our favorite part of the timing is that Cameron gets to bring his Pilot of the Month certificate to Thanksgiving and show it off to his whole family. Cameron, we fully support passing it around the table right alongside the mashed potatoes. You earned it.

Congratulations, Cameron! We're proud to have you in the GBA family. 🦃✈️



Cameron Johnson-Pilot of the Month