

# THE HOLD SHORT

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26JUL - 01AUG

## SOLO MINDSET: WHAT TO SAY, DO, AND PRIORITIZE

You've heard it a hundred times, **Aviate. Navigate. Communicate.** It's one of the most important things you'll ever learn as a pilot. But when you're on your solo flight, this isn't just a catchy saying, it's the key to staying calm, safe, and in control.

Because here's the thing: you're alone in the left seat now. No one's there to nudge you on the radio. No one's flipping the chart or catching the missed call. It's just you and your training. But you're ready, and this mindset will keep you sharp.

### **Aviate**

First and always: fly the airplane. No matter what distractions show up, traffic, confusing instructions, nervous energy, you've got one job first: keep the airplane flying. Pitch. Power. Trim. Breathe.

### **Navigate**

Once you're stable, then figure out where you are and where you're going. GPS, sectional, landmarks, use what you have, and stay ahead of the airplane. You're not expected to be perfect, you're expected to be prepared.

### **Communicate**

Then, and only then, do you grab the mic. But here's something we want every student to remember loud and clear:

Tell ATC you're a student pilot.

Say it. Wear it like a badge of honor.

"Reno Ground, Cessna 752DW, student pilot."

Controllers want to help you, but they can't if they don't know. You're not bothering anyone. You're showing self-awareness and professionalism. Saying you're a student pilot isn't a weakness, it's a strength. It tells ATC exactly how to support you, and it sets the tone for a smoother flight.

So whether it's your first lap around the pattern or your long cross-country solo, or even an experienced pilot who is having a rough day, remember the order that keeps pilots safe: **Aviate. Navigate.**

**Communicate.** And if you're a student pilot? Say it proudly. You've earned it.

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays, 6pm-8pm.
- Check the parking map!! Make sure you know where to park your plane when you return.
- 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.

**B****26JUL - 01AUG**

# GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT



**MITCHELL MARTIN –  
PRIVATE**

Let's give a round of applause for the smoothest operator in town, Mitchell Martin, on officially earning his private pilot license today! Mitch has been a flying machine these last few months. From dominating solo like it was no big deal to coming in today and sealing his fate as a full-fledged private pilot, Mitch's pathway throughout his flight training has been nothing but admirable. Mitch, you've put in the work, forgotten your headset a few times, and now you get to enjoy the thrill of the skies! Let that sink in! Mitch loves the adventure that comes with the thrill, and what better way to accommodate that love than becoming pilot? And while Mitch may come off like the thrill seeking, adrenaline junkie who enjoys skiing, motorcycle riding, and everything else in between—well, because he is—he also has a smooth jazz side of him that you'd never really see coming. Mitchell is a madman on the saxophone, laying down only the smoothest and most buttery of beats in town. Mitch intends on celebrating with a well-earned map and potentially some pizza and wings. Awesome work today, Mitch! Let's give Mitch and his CFI, Eric Harned, a huge congratulations on this awesome accomplishment! Great work you guys!

You can catch Hayden Karam in the gym hitting PRs like it's nobody's business, and you'll even find him out on the ramp on the other side up the airport tossing bags like they're warm-up reps. But today, Hayden traded his weight belt for a seatbelt as he took to the skies for his very first solo flight in N292ED at KRNO on runway 17R! That's right, Hayden's always been an athlete with a background in every sport under the sun... seriously! But it's aviation that's really captured his heart. When he's not working the line for Southwest here at KRNO or smashing protein shakes, he's fully locked into his flight training—and it shows. With a family legacy of pilots (some of whom have even trained at our school!), Hayden is continuing that tradition with serious dedication and drive. His dream? Flying commercially. And today, he made a huge leap toward that goal by taking the controls solo for the first time. Please join us in congratulating Hayden and his flight instructor, gym bro, and OTF hater, Cory Kleidosty, on this major milestone. Awesome work you guys!



**HAYDEN KARAM –  
SOLO**

**C****26JUL- 01AUG**

# GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT



**JOHN HAMILTON –  
PRIVATE**

We've got a brand-new Private Pilot in the skies and his name is none other than Mr. John Hamilton! John has been steadily working toward this moment with determination and focus, and today, all of that effort has paid off in a big way. One of our younger students, John has shown a level of maturity and commitment well beyond his years. Whether it was studying ground knowledge or refining his skills in the air, he brought his A-game to every step of training. A proud recipient of the Reno Air Race Association scholarship, John is one of the many young aviators whose dreams have been supported by this incredible program, and it's been inspiring to watch him grow into the confident and capable pilot he's become today. None of it could have been possible, though, without his right-hand man and flight instructor, Eric Harned. Through every stage of flight training, John was guided by the steady mentorship of Eric who has been a constant throughout his journey. Let's give John and Eric a round of applause on this incredible milestone. We can't wait to see where this license takes John next!

Don't let the birthday cake bites and kind heart fool you, because Tyler Shelton came here to fly, and did just that today as he flew solo in N495SP at KRTS on runway 32! Tyler is the kind of person who lights up a room. He's incredibly thoughtful, generous, and always bringing in snacks to the office (which, let's be honest, wins instant points around here). But beyond the good vibes and birthday treats is a pilot who means business. Though he's only been training for just over a month, Tyler has already shown the kind of focus and dedication it takes to go far in aviation. He gives everything he does 110%, and this solo flight is just the latest example of that hard work paying off. Whether he's baking something new, exploring a fresh hobby, or acting on whatever wild impulse hits him that day, Tyler brings energy and curiosity to everything he does, and it shows in the cockpit... But maybe a little too much energy and curiosity??? Looks like Tyler decided to take a nap on the ramp after his solo. Please join us in congratulating Tyler Shelton and his CFI, Lucas Murphy, on this awesome achievement. Tyler, your solo wings are just the beginning. We can't wait to see what's next!



**TYLER SHELTON –  
SOLO**



## GIO RODRIGUEZ – PILOT OF THE MONTH

Gio is GBA's July Pilot of the Month.

Gio is the kind of student every flight school dreams of. He's dedicated, focused, and somehow always upbeat, even while juggling a full plate. Between serving in the Nevada Air National Guard, training with us here at GBA, and supporting his family, Gio has every excuse to fall behind but instead he's consistently ahead of the plane, both literally and figuratively. He's known around GBA not just for his impressive airmanship or his terrible dad jokes, but also his phone curse. For those who remember the infamous Spring 2025 incident, yes—that was Gio's phone that went flying off the taxiway and ended up near the threshold of 35R (huge thanks to Reno Ops for the recovery assist). And if you're wondering: "Has he lost his phone another time?" the answer is unfortunately yes... Gio dropped another poor phone soul in the river over the 4th of July weekend. Despite his phone saga, Gio has stayed locked in on his training. Richard even told us that Gio had "one of the best mock checkrides he's ever seen" for PPL. Congrats, Gio! You've more than earned this recognition and we can't wait to see you dominate your PPL checkride!

Well, he's done it again. Jason Dorn has officially added Instrument Rated Pilot to his ever-growing list of accomplishments... and honestly, are we even surprised at this point? This guy's a stud. Jason's no stranger to hard work and earning an instrument rating is no walk in the park. It takes grit, precision, mental endurance, and a whole lot of hood time. But, true to form, Jason tackled it all with calm confidence, sharp instincts, and the kind of focus that makes the rest of us wonder if he actually is a secret agent in disguise... This rating specifically, though, is pretty special. Not just because it marks another huge step toward Jason's aviation career, but because it's also the final sign-off for his CFII and friend, Ryan Mill, who is wrapping up his time here at GBA. These two have been through a lot together—from first flights to long XC legs—and this milestone is a fitting end to an incredible flying chapter. Please join us in congratulating Jason Dorn and Ryan Mill on this well-earned and meaningful achievement. The sky keeps getting bigger, Jason—and you keep rising to meet it!!



## JASON DORN – INSTRUMENT



**ELI JONES –  
SOLO**

Fore!! Clear the runway, because Eli Jones just conquered his first solo flight in N37JA at KRTS on runway 8! Eli is one of those guys who is chock-full of personality. From having dreams of soaring around Alaska as a bush pilot, owning his own car detailing business, and playing some serious golf on the side (For real! This kid is only 16 years old and he's putting all of us to shame!), Eli's constantly pushing himself to achieve the next best thing. Today is only a small example of that persistence. Using that inner grit, it goes without saying that Eli came in and absolutely dominated the pattern today, and he did it all even despite having a fear of heights! You read that right. The man himself who is "terrified of heights" put those fears aside this morning and let his passion help him soar. This is an incredible day for Eli and his CFI, Andrew Spanier, so let's give them both of a huge round of applause on this incredible milestone! Eli, this is truly only the beginning. You're on a path to greatness and we can't wait to see how far your flight training takes you.

Another month, another rating down; Brayden Bishop is officially an instrument rated pilot!! Seriously, can someone check if Brayden Bishop ever sleeps? Since soloing in April, knocking out his PPL in May, and now earning his instrument rating in August, this guy has been on an unstoppable roll. Brayden's been fast-tracking his training like it's a full-time job... and when he's not studying or flying, he's still around as one of our new GBA line techs! With all that said, we're not totally convinced Brayden doesn't live here. And yet, somehow, we're not sick of him. Quite the opposite actually. Brayden is one of the most genuine, kindhearted, and down-to-earth people you'll ever meet. His dedication, attitude, and presence make him not just a fantastic aviator, but a genuinely awesome human to have around. This latest rating is just one more milestone in what's already been an amazing journey, and we know he's nowhere near done. Please join us in congratulating Brayden Bishop and his CFI, Andrew Spanier, on this well-earned achievement. Brayden, your path is climbing fast, and we're so proud to be along for the ride.



**BRAYDEN BISHOP –  
INSTRUMENT**