

THE HOLD SHORT

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12SEP-18SEP

COOLER TEMPS, MORE TIME TO FLY

Summer flying in Reno usually comes with an unofficial rule: fly early or prepare to get bounced around. High temperatures, increased density altitude, afternoon turbulence, and hot aircraft cabins can make midday lessons less comfortable, and sometimes less productive.

As temperatures begin to cool, the flying day opens back up.

Cooler, denser air generally means better aircraft performance, improved climb rates, and shorter takeoff distances. The atmosphere also tends to be more comfortable for students, instructors, and passengers. Instead of trying to squeeze every lesson into the early morning, we can take advantage of more usable flying hours throughout the day. That added flexibility makes fall an excellent time to begin training, regain currency, or finally finish the rating that summer schedules pushed to the side. More scheduling options can also make it easier to fly consistently, and consistency is one of the biggest factors in progressing efficiently through flight training.

Of course, cooler weather brings a few seasonal considerations of its own. Pilots should allow engines adequate time to warm up, continue completing performance calculations, and remember that daylight is disappearing earlier each evening. Temperatures may be cooling down, but weather, wind, and personal minimums still deserve the same attention.

Summer may get all the attention, but fall is one of Reno's best-kept flying secrets. The airplanes perform better, the cabins are more comfortable, and you no longer need to schedule a sunrise departure just to avoid feeling like you are training inside an air fryer. Cooler air is here. Let's go fly.

REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

- We have been super flexible, but the courtesy is being taken advantage of. Effective September 11, 2026, we will no longer waive a first cancellation fee. All no-shows and late cancellations will be charged a minimum of one hour of aircraft time. Instructor fees are at the instructor's discretion. Please respect the time you reserved and show up!
- CFI-led Study Groups are every Monday from 6-8pm. Contact the office for details.
- Don't forget to tell us where you are heading! Any XC flight, please add your destination to the comments.
- Shout-out to instrument student and new dad, Julius Lorentzen! If you see this, come by and pick up a T-Shirt.
- Instrument Ground School will start again On October 12th. More info below.

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GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT

Huge congratulations to Markus Barber on completing his first solo flight today! Markus absolutely crushed it, although you never would have known based on how casually he walked through the door afterward. He did not even mention that he had just flown an airplane completely by himself. Sir, that is usually information we like to know! Apparently, it was just another normal day for Markus.

Originally from Hershey, Pennsylvania, Markus is a full blown aviation geek who has loved airplanes for as long as he can remember. When he is not flying, you can usually find him gaming or doing something with computers. He proudly describes himself as a “computer nerd,” his words, not ours! That technical brain and attention to detail have definitely served him well throughout his flight training.

Markus has been training with his instructor, Josh, and the two make a great team. They also share what Markus calls “four eyes power” thanks to their matching glasses. Based on how well today went, we would say the four eyes power is working exactly as intended.

One of our favorite things about Markus is how calm and nonchalant he is about everything. He can accomplish a major aviation milestone and walk into the office like he just returned from a quick trip around the pattern, which is exactly what happened today. We love giving him a hard time whenever he is at the school, and he is always a good sport who brings a fun, easygoing energy to GBA.

Your first solo is one of those aviation milestones you never forget, even if Markus acted like it was no big deal. He handled it exactly as we expected, calmly, confidently, and like an absolute pro.

Congratulations, Markus! We are so proud of you and cannot wait to see what comes next in your aviation journey. Huge shoutout to Josh for helping another student take to the skies alone. Four eyes power for the win! 🛩️🎮👓👓



Markus Barber-Solo

Huge congratulations to Sheridan on officially passing his CFI checkride!! 🛩️🎉 Sheridan lives up in Truckee and is about as aviation obsessed as they come. When he isn't here working toward another rating, he's building his own airplane (because apparently simply flying them wasn't enough). He's also a devoted tailwheel guy and pretty much only flies tailwheels when he isn't at GBA, a fact he makes sure his instructor, Shane, never forgets. 😊

Sheridan and Shane have been such a great team throughout his CFI training. Between Sheridan's sense of humor, aviation knowledge, and ability to keep everyone laughing, he has become one of those people we genuinely just love having around the school.

And apparently aviation isn't his only talent. Sheridan recently showed up with homemade cookies that were UNREAL. We're still waiting on the recipe, Sheridan. Passing your CFI checkride does not get you out of that one. 🍪

But one of our favorite things about Sheridan, and something that really stood out today, is his attitude toward gratitude. On his way out after passing his checkride, he talked about how important it is to him to spread gratitude and made a point of telling us how appreciative he was of everyone who helped him through this process.

What he probably didn't realize is how much hearing that meant to us. Flight training has its long days, frustrating moments, setbacks, and challenges, and sometimes it takes a moment like that to remind us exactly why we love doing what we do. Getting to watch people work toward something this big, be a small part of the journey, and celebrate with them when all that work pays off is pretty special.

Sheridan, thank YOU for bringing so much humor, gratitude, and good energy through our doors (and, obviously, the cookies). We've loved watching you and Shane tackle this one together, and we couldn't be happier to officially call you a Certified Flight Instructor.

Congratulations, Sheridan!! Now go teach some people how to fly, preferably in a tailwheel, we know. 😊🛩️



Sheridan Stegner-CFI

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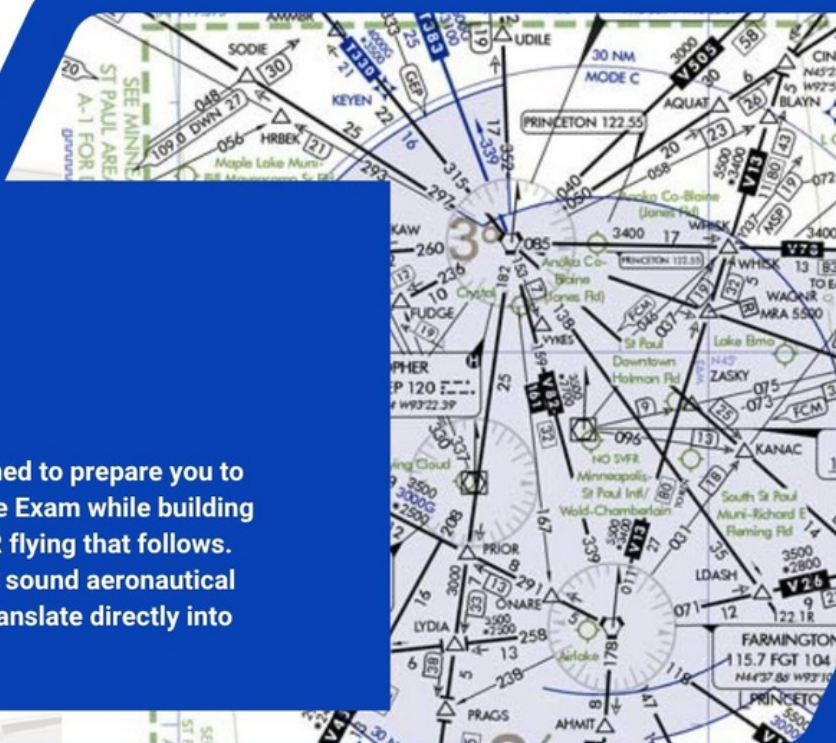
12SEP-18SEP

GROUND SCHOOL OFFERING



INSTRUMENT GROUND SCHOOL

This in-person Instrument Pilot Ground School is designed to prepare you to successfully pass the FAA Instrument Rating Knowledge Exam while building a strong foundation for the oral exam and real-world IFR flying that follows. The course emphasizes understanding, application, and sound aeronautical decision-making, not rote memorization, so concepts translate directly into safer, more confident instrument flying in the cockpit.



DETAILS

WHEN AND WHERE

- Monday & Wednesday evenings
- 6:00 - 9:00 PM
- October 12 - November 18th
- Atlantic Aviation, Large Upstairs Conference Room

COURSE MATERIALS

- Jeppesen Instrument/Commercial & ASA Test Prep Text Books (included)
- Basic Foreflight Subscription

EXPECTATIONS

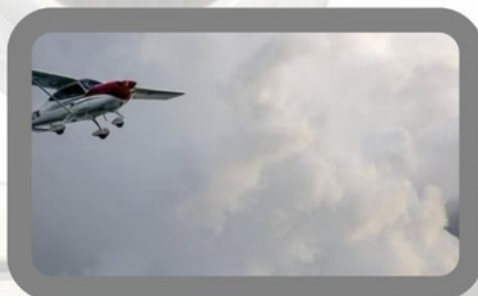
- Willingness to actively participate
- Commitment to completing assigned homework
- Consistent attendance and engagement during class sessions

COST

- \$500 (includes books)

SIGN UP

- Email - GoFlying@GreatBasinAviation.com
- Call/Text - 775-856-3655



Why Choose GBA?

Well, #1, Bob Bennett and our new Instrument Ground Instructor, Alan Woodburn (retired corporate pilot), will be teaching the class, but also, training for your Instrument Rating at GBA means learning in a structured, professional environment led by experienced instructors who emphasize long-term proficiency. Our focus goes beyond passing a test to developing sound aeronautical judgment, strong IFR fundamentals, and disciplined habits that translate into safe, confident decision-making in real-world instrument flying.