

# THE HOLD SHORT

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20SEP - 26SEP

## FROM "DAWN PATROL ONLY" TO ALL-DAY AVIATOR

All summer we front-load the schedule at sunrise and shut it down by lunch. In July, that's smart: heat, density altitude, and convective bumps make afternoons a grind. But fall changes the air and the workload.

Afternoons start to stabilize. Cooler temps bring better climb rates and shorter takeoff rolls. The pattern thins, radios calm down, and winds trend steadier instead of gusty. You go up at 7500 "just to see" and find workable crosswinds, manageable bumps, and a smoother lesson block than you expected.

Late day brings practical advantages, too. Visibility improves as the sun drops, traffic eases, and you can sequence longer tasks, XC planning, holds, checkride profiles, without fighting the noon rush. And as sunset moves earlier, night currency fits into a normal evening instead of a midnight ordeal.

Keep your dawn patrol if you love it, but don't lock yourself to it. This season, Nevada gives you solid flying from sun-up to sun-down (and a bit beyond). Use the whole day, book a mid-afternoon or golden-hour flight and let the conditions work for you. It's not about avoiding early alarms; it's about flying when the air is ready to help.

## 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.
- Don't forget about the Ground School Supplement Courses. Schedule is on the last page.
- **Check out the new time logs in the binders. Renters and/or CFI need to sign that the post flight checklist is completed.**
- **Get ready to elevate your aviation skills with our upcoming in-house, lecture-based Instrument Ground School classes, led by the phenomenal CFI/CFII, Bob Bennett! Here are the details: Dates: October 14 - November 20 (6 weeks), Every Tuesday and Thursday night, 6pm-9pm. Cost: \$500 (includes books). Location: Atlantic Aviation. Requirements: Basic Foreflight subscription for electronic charts Space is limited, so don't delay! Reach out ASAP to the GBA office (775-856-3655, [goflying@greatbasinaviation.com](mailto:goflying@greatbasinaviation.com)) to secure your spot as enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis.**



**BRENDAN GOMEZ—  
INSTRUMENT**

Brendan Gomez is now Instrument Rated!! Nerves? Only in the photos.

Another one of our line-tech extraordinaires put the foggles on and flew like a metronome. Localizer alive, centered. Glideslope captured, smooth. Intercepts on point, holds tidy, and the 3 Ts (turn-time-twist) happened before you could even say “procedure turn.” When visibility went blah, Brendan’s scan stayed calm and crisp, needles living inside half-scale like they pay rent. Missed approach briefed, timer running, calls clean, pure IFR discipline.

He may look a little tense in the pictures, but there were zero nerves in the cockpit, just a pilot doing the work, step by step. Former ski racer, which tracks: he carves the airway like fresh corduroy, precise lines, measured corrections, no drama. He briefed the plate, set up the box, verified fixes, and stayed ahead of the airplane the whole time. Even the little IFR gotchas, timing, wind correction, and that “don’t chase the needle” patience, were handled like he’s been living under the hood for years.

Huge congrats to CFII Eric Harned for the right-seat zen and sharp coaching. Next time you see Brendan on the ramp, hit him with a congrats He’s probably celebrating tonight, and it’s well deserved. Enjoy the new superpower, Brendan: when visibility is optional, your precision isn’t.

Huge Congratulations to Reeve Lester on His First Solo Flight! Today, Reeve reached one of the biggest milestones in any pilot’s journey, the very first time flying completely solo! After hours of hard work and training, he lifted off, flew the pattern, and made smooth landings with no instructor in the right seat. That moment of quiet in the cockpit when it’s just you, the plane, and the sky is one every pilot remembers forever, and now Reeve has that memory to hold onto.

Reeve comes to us from Oregon, and has big dreams of becoming a pilot. When he’s not flying, he’s often diving into robotics or playing video games, a true mix of curiosity and creativity. He’s also got a fun side: his favorite food is fresh pineapple, his favorite color is heliotrope, and he proudly calls himself a “nerd,” which in aviation, usually just means passionate and detail-oriented. Reeve, we’re so proud of your hard work and determination. Your first solo is just the beginning, and we can’t wait to see where your flying journey takes you next. Congratulations again on this unforgettable achievement, the sky is yours!



**REEVE LESTER—  
SOLO**

**C****20SEP - 26SEP**

# GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT



**ALEX FLOREZ-  
PILOT OF THE MONTH**

We are proud to recognize Alex Florez as our Pilot of the Month! Alex, a commercial pilot currently working toward his CFI under the instruction of Eric Harned, has shown outstanding dedication and professionalism throughout his training.

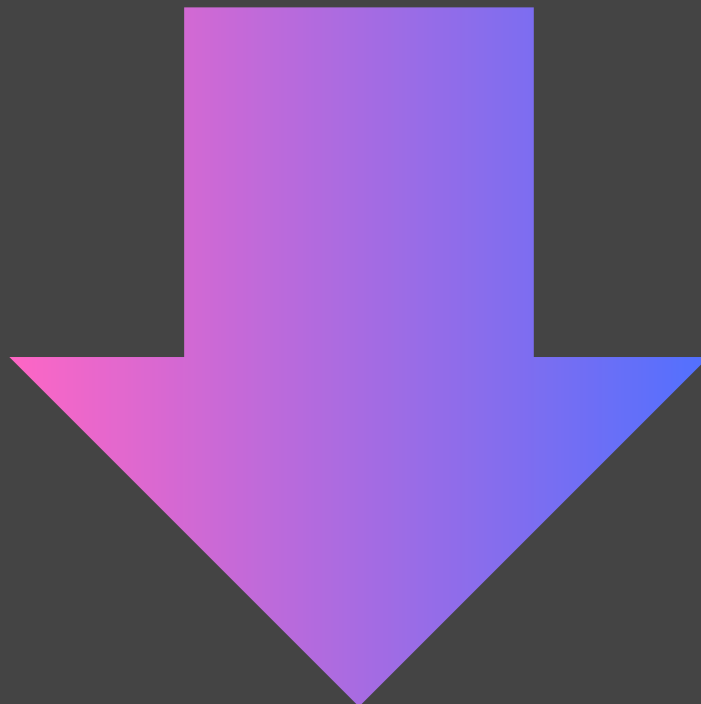
From the very beginning, Alex's consistency, preparation, and maturity have set him apart. He approaches every lesson with determination and focus, balancing the demands of advanced training while maintaining the same enthusiasm that first brought him into aviation. His commitment is evident in the steady progress he continues to make and the positive presence he brings to the hangar.

As a recipient of the Reno Air Races Scholarship, Alex exemplifies what it means to carry ambition through every stage of training. He has taken that opportunity and built upon it with tireless effort, proving that his success is no accident but the result of hard work, persistence, and a passion for excellence.

Alex's pleasant demeanor, professionalism, and dedication make him not only a deserving recipient of this award but also a role model for fellow students. We are excited to see him continue his journey toward becoming a CFI and sharing his passion for aviation with others.

Congratulations, Alex, your hard work and consistency have truly paid off, and this recognition is well earned!

**CHECK OUT INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING  
GROUND SCHOOL SUPPLEMENT COURSES:**





**D****20SEP - 26SEP**

# GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT

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**\$50 PER  
CLASS (2HRS)**  
INSTRUCTOR WILL SIGN  
OFF TRAINING IN YOUR  
LOGBOOK

**SEPTEMBER**

#### **9/20 - AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS**

The Aircraft Systems class teaches how key systems, engine, electrical, fuel, and control function, preparing you to identify and manage potential issues for safer flight.



#### **10/04 - AERODYNAMICS**

This class covers how these planes fly: lift, drag, thrust, and weight, helping you understand airflow, stability, stalls, and maneuvering for better control and efficiency in flight.

#### **10/18 - AVIATION WEATHER**

This class teaches you how to interpret METARs, TAFs, charts, and weather patterns, helping you make informed decisions for safer flight planning and in-flight adjustments.

**OCTOBER**

#### **11/01 - AIRSPACE**

This class covers airspace classes, chart recognition, communication and equipment requirements, plus the weather minimums every pilot needs to know.

**NOVEMBER**

#### **11/15 - CHARTS AND FLIGHT PLANNING**

This class helps you master sectionals, airspace, and chart symbols, ensuring you can navigate safely and efficiently in all flight environments. This class will also cover route selection, fuel calculations, airspace considerations, and weather analysis, ensuring you can plan safe, efficient, and well-prepared flights.



#### **12/06 - EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

This class prepares you to handle engine failures, system malfunctions, lost communications, and in-flight emergencies, ensuring quick thinking and confident decision-making in critical situations.

#### **12/20 - CHECKRIDE PREP**

This class helps you master oral exam questions, flight maneuvers, and scenario-based decision-making, ensuring you are confident and well-prepared for your checkride.

**DECEMBER****MORE INFO:**

**GBA OFFICE, 775-856-3655**  
**COFLYING@GREATBASINAVIATION.COM**