

THE HOLD SHORT

A

05SEP-11SEP

THE ROAD TO 1,500 MAY LEAD OUT OF RENO

Earning your commercial certificate or CFI is a huge accomplishment, but it is also where the real hustle begins. The road to 1,500 hours requires flexibility, persistence, and, quite possibly, a moving truck.

Here is the blunt truth: Reno does not currently have enough flying jobs for every newly certificated commercial pilot and flight instructor hoping to build time. Local opportunities are limited, flight schools are saturated, and the flying can be seasonal. Waiting around for the perfect Reno job is not a career plan. If your goal is the airlines, you may need to get out of town sooner rather than later.

Apply everywhere. Look beyond instructing and consider aerial survey, pipeline patrol, skydive operations, banner towing, ferry flying, cargo operations, and other legitimate low-time opportunities. Be willing to relocate, take the less glamorous job, and go where the airplanes are moving. Your first aviation job does not have to be your forever job, it just needs to move you forward safely and professionally.

Start your search with these resources:

- FlyTo1500.com — A nationwide directory of low-time and hour-building pilot jobs.
- RoadTo1500.com — A newsletter featuring low-time job leads, employer deep dives, application advice, résumé guidance, and stories from pilots who found their first flying jobs.

Reno will still be here when you come back with 1,500 hours. Your career should not sit here waiting with you.

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.
- In the event of cancellation, call the office or email us asap. Messages and emails are monitored.
- Shout-out to student pilot Alex Cordisco for consistently reading the Hold Short. Please stop by the office and pick up your GBA t-shirt!
- Instrument Ground School will start again On October 12th. More info below.

B**05SEP-11SEP**

GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT

Congratulations, Kelsey Nelson!

A very big congratulations to Kelsey Nelson on earning her Private Pilot Certificate! Kelsey is genuinely one of the most laid-back people you will ever meet. No matter what is happening, she somehow stays calm, takes everything in stride and makes even the most challenging parts of flight training look easy. But behind that easygoing personality is someone who is incredibly driven. Once Kelsey decides she is going to do something, there is really no question that she will find a way to make it happen. And honestly, we're still trying to figure out what she can't do. Kelsey is a mom to three kids, works as a project engineer for a mine, helps run a go-kart track in Stead and now flies airplanes, too. As if that weren't enough, she also has two go-karting championships under her belt! She manages to balance more than most people could imagine while still showing up with a positive attitude and making it all seem effortless.

Throughout her training, Kelsey proved that being calm and being determined can absolutely go hand in hand. She adapted to every new challenge, pushed herself through the stressful moments and continued working toward her goal one lesson at a time. Her ability to remain consistent, learn quickly and keep moving forward made her a pleasure to have around the airport and an incredibly rewarding student to watch succeed.

A special shoutout to her instructor, Trey, for guiding and supporting her throughout the process. It is always exciting to see an instructor and student work together toward such a major accomplishment, and we know this is a proud moment for both of them.

Kelsey, we are so proud of you and so excited to officially call you a private pilot. Congratulations on this well-earned accomplishment, we can't wait to see what you decide to do next!



Kelsey Nelson- PPL

FROM BUCKING BRONCOS TO FLYING CESSNAS 🤠✈️

A huge congratulations to Daniel Sims, who completed his first solo flight today on Runway 26 at KRTS!

According to his instructor, Josh, Daniel is about as cool, calm and collected as they come. Even when the two of them have flown in some pretty heavy crosswinds, Josh says he has yet to see Daniel truly get nervous, which makes sense considering Daniel spends his free time riding bulls and bucking horses. Apparently, once you've climbed onto the back of a bull, a little Reno wind doesn't feel quite so intimidating! When Daniel isn't flying, you can usually find him fishing, rodeoing or doing something else that requires substantially more courage than the average person possesses. Whether he's holding a fishing rod, gripping a bull rope or taking control of an airplane, Daniel is clearly happiest when he's chasing his next adventure! His ultimate goal is to become a professional pilot, and today he took one of the biggest and most memorable steps toward making that dream a reality. There are still plenty of lessons, flights and milestones ahead, but completing a first solo means Daniel is no longer simply learning how to fly, he has officially flown an airplane entirely by himself!

Daniel, congratulations on your first solo! You traded four hooves for three wheels, took Runway 26 all by yourself and proved that the sky is just another arena for you to conquer.

And a very special shoutout to his instructor, Josh, for helping Daniel develop the knowledge, skill and confidence necessary to reach this exciting milestone. A first solo is an incredible accomplishment for a student, but it is also a proud moment for the instructor who prepared him, believed in him and finally knew it was time to step out of the airplane and let him fly.

We're incredibly proud of you both. Congratulations, Daniel—keep chasing those big dreams, whether they take you into the arena, out on the water or thousands of feet above the ground! 🤠🐮✈️



Daniel Sims- SOLO!

C**05SEP-11SEP**

GROUND SCHOOL OFFERING

ISAAC GHARAGOZIAN IS OFFICIALLY A PRIVATE PILOT! 🎉👏

Isaac has been balancing flight training with studying engineering at Nevada because apparently one difficult pursuit at a time simply isn't enough for him. Between airplanes and mountain biking, a hobby that has already resulted in a couple of broken wrists, Isaac certainly knows how to choose activities that are both affordable and low risk. 😊

When Isaac first started training, he was pretty quiet and kept his sense of humor hidden. It took us a little while to discover just how sneakily funny he is, but now that he's comfortable, the jokes make a regular appearance. He delivers them so casually that you almost miss them, which honestly makes them even funnier. It has been so fun getting to know more of his personality and watching him become part of the GBA family throughout his training.

Isaac worked incredibly hard for this accomplishment alongside his instructor, Trey. This certificate is an exciting first step toward Isaac's ultimate goal of becoming a professional pilot, and we know there are many more ratings, flights, and accomplishments ahead of him. With his intelligence, determination, calm personality, and ability to make everyone laugh when they least expect it, we cannot wait to see where aviation takes him next.

When asked how he planned to celebrate this huge accomplishment, Isaac gave us the most fitting answer possible. He was going to go home and sleep. Honestly, after completing a checkride while pursuing an engineering degree and somehow finding time to mountain bike, that celebration sounds completely deserved.

Huge congratulations to Isaac, and a big shoutout to Trey for guiding him through his training and helping him reach this milestone! We are so proud of you, Isaac. Enjoy the rest, celebrate this incredible accomplishment, and please try to keep both wrists intact for instrument training. 😊👏



**Isaac Gharagozian-
PPL**

**CHECK OUT THE
NEXT PAGE FOR
INFO ON...**

**INSTRUMENT
GROUND
SCHOOL**

D

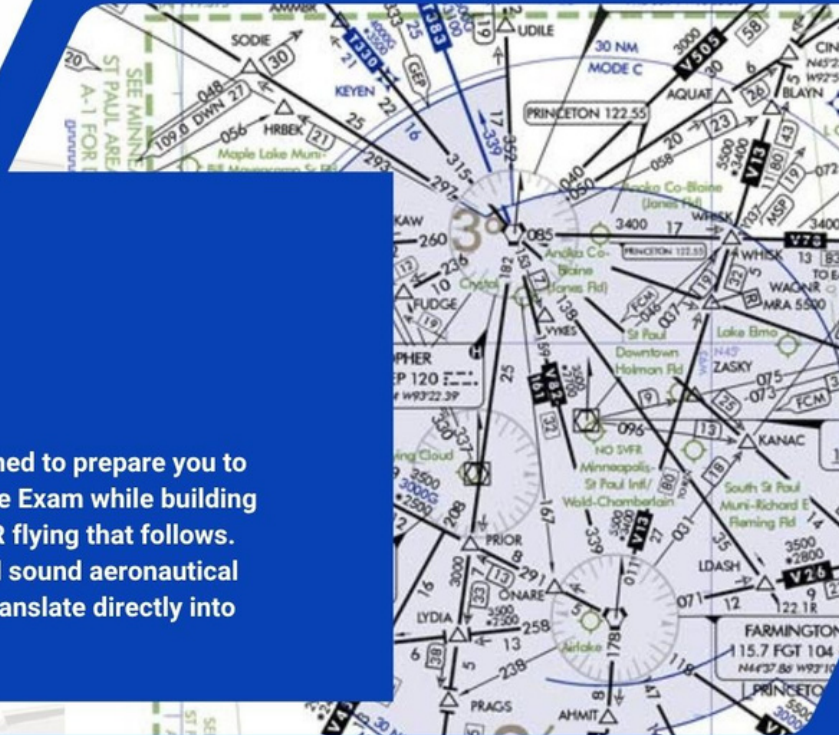
05SEP-11SEP

GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT



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

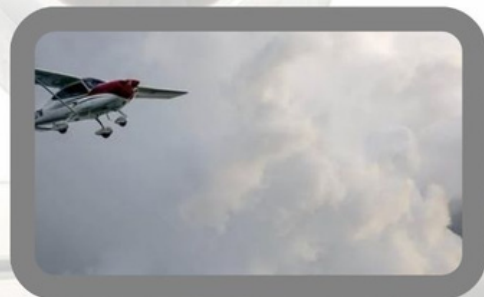
- Willingness to actively participate
- Commitment to completing assigned homework
- Consistent attendance and engagement during class sessions

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.