

# THE HOLD SHORT

**A** 14MAR - 20MAR

## AN INSIDE LOOK AT BECOMING A PILOT

For many people, aviation starts the same way, with a glance up at the sky and a simple thought: What would it be like to fly?

On Saturday, March 21 at 10:00, Great Basin Aviation is inviting the community to move beyond that question and take a closer look at what becoming a pilot actually involves.

The Future Pilot Open House, hosted by CFI Cory Kleidosty, at Atlantic Aviation, is designed to give prospective students and curious attendees a clear, realistic understanding of flight training. Rather than a surface-level introduction, the event walks through the real process, what training looks like, what it costs, how long it takes, and what kind of commitment is required to earn a pilot certificate.

Throughout the event, guests will have the opportunity to tour active training aircraft, speak directly with instructors, and participate in a live Q&A session. A structured presentation will also outline the step-by-step path from first lesson to certification, helping attendees better understand how to turn interest into action.

Whether someone is seriously considering flight training or simply exploring a long-standing curiosity, the goal of the open house is to provide clarity and confidence. Aviation can feel like a big, unknown step, but with the right information and support, it becomes far more accessible than most people expect.

Great Basin Aviation has built its reputation on guiding students through that first step and beyond, creating a training environment focused on both structure and community. Events like this open house are an extension of that mission, welcoming new faces into aviation and helping them determine if the path is right for them.

The event will take place from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Atlantic Aviation, located at 655 S Rock Blvd in Reno. For those who have ever wondered if flying could be part of their future, this is an opportunity to find out, no pressure, no expectations, just a chance to learn what it really takes to earn your wings.

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## TELL US WHERE YOU'RE HEADED

Planning a cross-country? We love to see it.

As more of our pilots start stretching their legs beyond the local area, we're adding a simple (but important) step to help keep operations running smoothly and aircraft supported wherever they go.

If your flight is going more than 50 NM from the airport, please include your destination in the comments section of your reservation.

That's it. Quick, easy, but it makes a big difference.

### Why it matters:

When aircraft are traveling farther from home, there are additional factors we need to be aware of such as maintenance availability, local field conditions, and contingency planning in case something comes up away from Reno. Knowing where you're headed allows us to better support you, anticipate potential issues, and ensure both you and the aircraft are set up for a smooth trip.

This isn't about limiting where you go, it's about making sure you have the backing of the GBA team wherever you fly.

So next time you book that cross-country, just drop your destination in the comments. Simple step. Better support. Safer flying.

Go explore, we'll keep an eye on home base.



## REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

- In the event of cancellation, call the office or email us asap. Messages and emails are monitored even after hours.
- Come to the Monday night study groups! Private Pilot is the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month, 6pm-8pm. Advanced rating/certificate study groups will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, same time.
- Runway 8/26 at KRNO is closed 3/2-5/1.
- Taxiway signage and names will change on July 9<sup>th</sup>. There is a map in the GBA if you want to check it out and get familiar with it prior to the change.

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# GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT

Huge congrats to Austin Cannon on earning his Private Pilot License... in THREE months. Yeah, you read that right.

Austin didn't just complete his PPL, he absolutely sprinted through it like it was on his daily checklist between saving lives and booking his next trip. Being a full-time doctor and still managing to knock out a rating that fast is honestly a little suspicious... but we'll allow it.

Originally new to the area, Austin wasted zero time settling into the Reno lifestyle. If he's not at the airport, he's probably skiing, hiking, traveling somewhere new, or on the golf course. Basically, if it involves being outdoors or going somewhere cool, he's already doing it.

He also brings strong UNC Tar Heel energy, which means confidence, competitiveness, and just enough attitude to keep things interesting. That energy has been especially directed toward Jenn, who has been on the receiving end of a steady stream of Austin commentary since day one. Truly a gift to the office.

Despite all the chaos, Austin showed up locked in every single flight, flew consistently, and made steady progress the entire way through. No drama, no delays, just got it done... fast.

Big congrats to his instructor, Andrew Spanier, as well, for guiding him along the way! Austin, we're glad you chose GBA and brought your personality (and your speed run mentality) with you. Congrats, Doc



**Austin Cannon -  
PPL**



**Gio Alvarez -  
Solo**

Giovanni Alvarez just proved that doing big things starts with saying "yeah, I'll try that!"

Today at KSPZ, runway 24, Gio took N292ED up for his first solo, and if you know Gio, you know he did it with that constant, can't-miss smile. The kind of smile that says, "this is awesome"... even when your CFI just stepped out and casually left you with an airplane.

Gio is always up for something new. New experiences, new challenges, new adventures. and today that mindset paid off in a big way. Because somewhere between the nerves, the checklist, and that moment of "okay... it's just me now," he did what every pilot has to do, he trusted himself.

He'll tell you nothing scares him... and while we suspect there might've been just a little spike in heart rate when Trey hopped out of the left seat, he showed exactly what matters most: courage isn't about not being nervous, it's about going anyway.

Also, fun fact: Gio isn't a fan of cats... which honestly just makes us like him even more (sorry to the cat lovers out there).

Huge congratulations to Gio on earning his solo wings and to his CFI Trey Casini for guiding him to this moment. This is where it all starts, the confidence, the growth, and the realization that you're capable of way more than you think. Keep chasing it, Gio. This is just the beginning!

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# GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT

Some people level up... and some people really level up. Today, James Morgan officially added CFII to his name, and we couldn't be more fired up about it. As a Great Basin Aviation instructor, James has already been putting in the work day in and day out, helping students build their skills and confidence in the airplane. Now, he's taking it even further stepping into the world of instrument instruction and guiding pilots through one of the most challenging and rewarding phases of training. Earning a CFII is no small feat. It takes precision, discipline, and a deep understanding of not just flying, but teaching in a whole new environment where everything depends on trust in your instruments and your training. James has proven he has what it takes, and his students are lucky to have him leading the way. And because apparently that wasn't enough for one season of life... he's also about to become a dad. His little one is due soon, which means he's about to take on his most important role yet. From briefing approaches to building cribs, James is doing it all, and doing it well.

This is what dedication looks like. Showing up, putting in the work, and continuing to grow both professionally and personally. We're proud to have James as part of the GBA team and excited to watch him continue to make an impact on his students and the aviation community.

Huge congratulations, James. Big things ahead. And awesome job to CFII Shane Smith for helping guide him to this milestone.



**James Morgan -  
CFII**



**Alyssa Yerick -  
Pilot of the Month**

Huge congratulations to Alyssa Yerick on being named Pilot of the Month!! Alyssa is one of those people who casually has a lot going on and somehow makes it look easy. She's currently studying biochemistry at UNR (not exactly a light major) but she handles it like it's no big deal. On top of that, she works in a research lab, so yes, she's literally out here researching genetically modified plants and then coming to fly. Casual.

Her goal is to become an optometrist, and it honestly fits her perfectly. She's focused, detail-oriented, and brings a calm, steady approach to everything she does, especially in the airplane. Outside of school and flying, Alyssa is always up for something fun. Whether she's golfing, snowboarding, or line dancing, she's all in. She's the kind of person who's always down to try something new and somehow ends up being good at it too. And somehow, no matter what she has going on, her hair and outfits are always perfectly put together.

What really makes Alyssa stand out, though, is who she is as a person. She is incredibly kind and genuinely humble. She could absolutely brag about everything she has going on and no one would blame her, but you'd never hear it from her. She just quietly puts in the work, shows up for others, and keeps getting better at everything she does. You'd never guess she's the superstar that she is.

We're so lucky to have her at GBA. Pilot of the Month is more than deserved, and we can't wait to see what she does next.

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# GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT

Huge congratulations to Caleb Lin on earning his Private Pilot License!! Caleb's background spans across the globe, born in Guam, raised in Shanghai, China, and then back to Guam, so he's no stranger to new places and picking things up quickly. Which makes it pretty fitting that he can now just fly himself wherever he wants, ideally somewhere a little less hot since he's made it very clear the heat is not his thing.

Caleb trained with Lucas Murphy and flew 495SP, and honestly, he made the whole process look easy. He's one of those people who just gets it, whether it's learning new maneuvers or understanding the "why" behind everything. And the best part is he does it all with a calm, steady mindset. No stress, just showing up, smiling, and getting it done. On checkride day he didn't even seem nervous, just his usual super smiley self.

Around the school, Caleb is known for being genuinely kind and easy to be around. He's super nice, always respectful, and just has that good energy people gravitate toward. Outside of flying, he also enjoys DJing, so whether it's in the cockpit or behind the booth, he knows how to keep things smooth and on point.

When asked how he was going to celebrate, Caleb kept it simple and elite, heading to Hell's Kitchen in Tahoe with friends. Honestly, no better way to celebrate than good food, good people, and a brand new PPL.

Caleb, you crushed it. Huge accomplishment and so well deserved. Can't wait to see where you go next, just maybe somewhere with cooler weather.



**Caleb Lin-  
PPL**