THE HOLD SHORT

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FLIGHT PATHS AREN'T ALWAYS STRAIGHT

We learn to draw straight lines on a flight plan. Building a life in aviation? That route usually has a few more turns. Maybe you pictured earning your certificates back-to-back, building hours, and heading straight into your dream flying job. Then weather, finances, maintenance, family, or an unexpected opportunity changed the plan.

A different route doesn't erase your progress.

Aviation is a cyclical industry. Hiring accelerates, then slows. Opportunities open, timelines shift, and what felt like a clear path can suddenly require a little patience and a new heading. If you stay in this industry long enough, you'll experience both the exciting stretches and the frustrating ones.

It's easy to get discouraged when someone else seems to be moving faster. Their checkride is scheduled, their hours are climbing, or they just landed the job you've been dreaming about. Be happy for them, but remember: you're seeing one part of their journey. You have your own responsibilities, resources, and timing.

Your logbook isn't supposed to look exactly like anyone else's.

And through all those cycles, aviation is still pretty amazing.

There's that first solo. The moment a difficult maneuver finally clicks. A sunrise from the cockpit. The friendships built on the ramp. And the realization that you're doing something you once only dreamed about. Even an ordinary flight can remind you why you started.

You might train at a different pace than your friends, take a break, change airports, or discover a flying career you hadn't considered. Those turns can become some of the most valuable parts of your story. An unexpected job might introduce you to a mentor. A slower stretch might give you time to strengthen your knowledge. A new environment might help you discover where you fit best.

Aviation teaches us to assess conditions and adjust. Sometimes we hold short. Sometimes we divert. Sometimes we land, regroup, and make a new plan. That same judgment belongs in your career.

Keep your goals in sight, but give yourself room to change how you reach them. Ask questions. Stay connected. Keep learning—even when you aren't logging hours. Study, practice, and be someone people enjoy flying and working with. When opportunities come around, you want to be ready.

You don't need every leg of the journey figured out today. You just need a thoughtful next step—and the willingness to adjust as you go.

The flight plan can change. Your love of flying can come 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!
- Miyah Igmen...if you are reading this week's Hold Short, come see us for your GBA swag!
- CFI-led study groups meet Mondays from 6–8 p.m. No study group on October 26. Contact the office for details!
- Dont forget to tell us where you are heading! Any XC flight, please add your destination to the comments.
- Instrument Ground School will start again On October 12th. More info below.

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GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT

Please help us congratulate Great Basin Aviation's newest Private Pilot, Ruben Lara! He sings, he speaks Spanish, he flies airplanes, and apparently, he does NOT make a big announcement when he passes his checkride.

In true Ruben fashion, he walked into the office with his certificate and didn't say a word about it until we asked. Just casually holding a HUGE accomplishment like it was no big deal. Ruben, you might be able to play it cool, but you should know by now that the GBA crew will absolutely make a scene over a new pilot!

If you've spent any time around Ruben, you know his calm, nonchalant personality is part of his charm. He's a great guy to have around the flight school, and getting to celebrate this milestone with him makes it even better. Behind that laid back demeanor is plenty of hard work, studying, and time in the cockpit. This certificate was earned, and we're not letting him sneak past the celebration!

Originally from Truckee, California, Ruben has a few other talents worth bragging about, so we'll happily handle that for him, too. When he's not flying or studying, he's playing gigs with his band. He's also a talented singer AND speaks Spanish. Save some skills for the rest of us, Ruben!

His likes? Flying and music. His dislikes? Bad weather. We can confirm he's in very good company on that last one around here! His ideal celebratory meal is steak and mashed potatoes, which sounds like a pretty solid way to wrap up a checkride day.

Congratulations, Ruben! We're so proud of the work you put into earning your wings and excited to see where you take them next. Enjoy this moment, celebrate a little louder, and next time you accomplish something this big, PLEASE lead with that when you walk through the door!

Ruben Lara- PPL

SCROLL DOWN FOR DETAILS ON UPCOMING SUPPLEMENTAL CLASS

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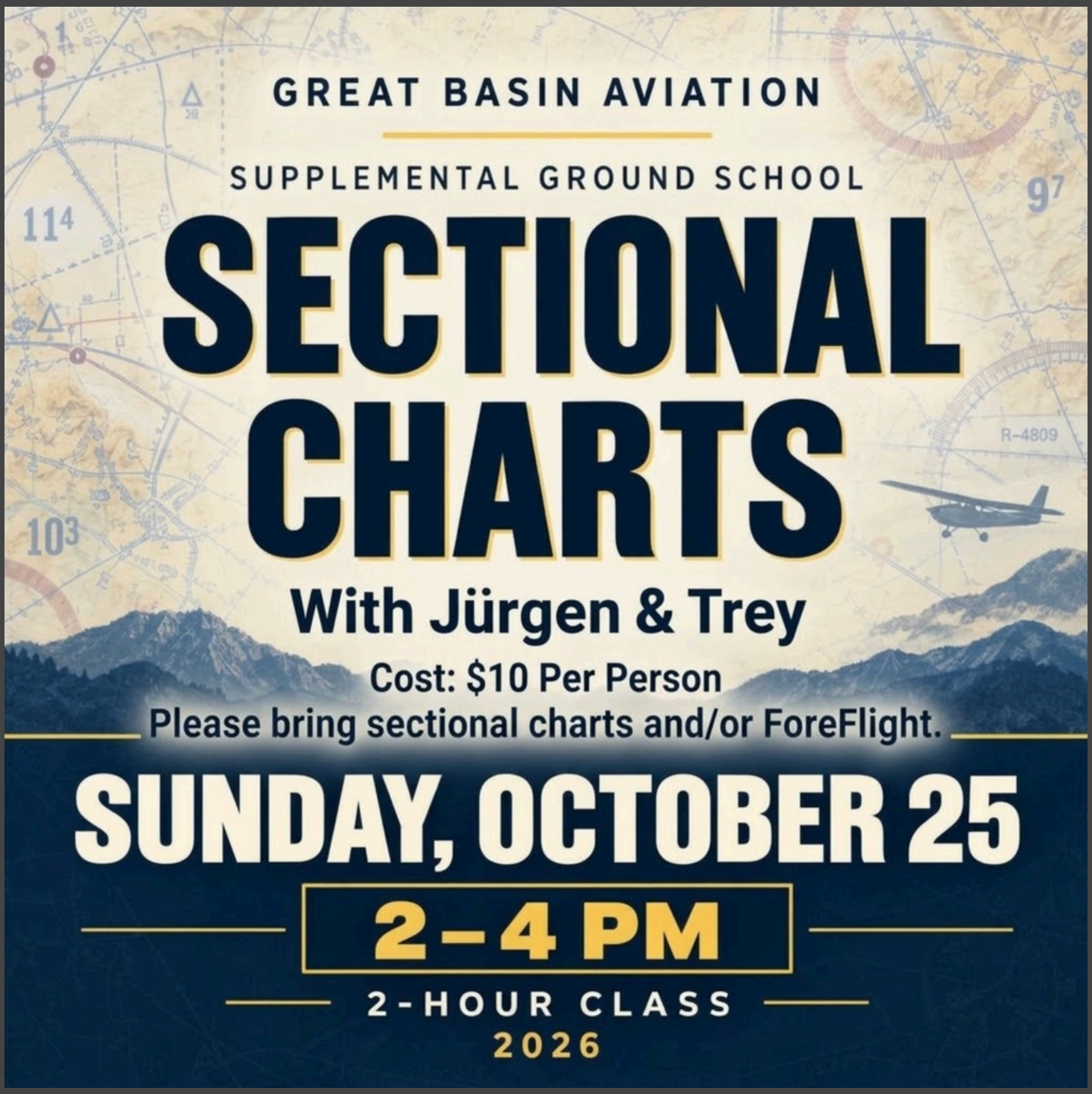
GROUND CLASS OFFERING