

THE HOLD SHORT

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THE POWER OF STANDARDIZATION

When people think about learning to fly, they usually focus on hours, cost, and how fast they can get done. What matters just as much is consistency.

A standardized curriculum means you are not guessing what comes next. Each lesson has a purpose and builds on the last. That keeps your time in the airplane focused and productive. It's efficient.

A standardized fleet matters for the same reason. When you are in the same type of aircraft every time, with the same layout and systems, you are not wasting time relearning the airplane. You are flying it.

A standardized fleet also raises the level of instruction. When instructors know and have trained in a consistent flight deck, they are not figuring things out on the fly. They are teaching, anticipating mistakes, and keeping you ahead of the airplane. When the opposite sneaks in and training lacks standardization, you pay for it. Different aircraft and different approaches from lesson to lesson mean constant adjustment. That time comes out of your progress. It is less efficient.

Standardization removes that. Skills build faster. Progress is steadier. You get more out of each lesson.

This all also directly impacts cost. Every minute spent reorienting is a minute you are paying for but not advancing.

Standardization is not just about being organized. It is one of the simplest ways to learn faster and spend less while doing it.

REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

- **Dont forget to tell us where you are heading!** Any XC flight, please add your destination to the comments in the booking.
- 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 1st and 3rd Monday of the month, 6pm-8pm. Advanced rating/certificate study groups will be the 2nd and 4th 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 9th. There is a map in the GBA if you want to check it out and get familiar with it prior to the change.



Shon Plamondon- CFI

Shon Plamondon... CFI 🛩️🎉

Another right-seat legend has entered the chat. With Bob backing him the whole way, Shon officially earned his CFI... and did it exactly how you'd expect: no chaos, no dramatics, just quietly stacking wins until there was nothing left to say except "yep, he's ready."

If you know Shon, you know the energy. Calm, kind, and somehow unbothered in a way that makes the rest of us question our life choices. The radios could be a mess, the winds could be doing the absolute most, and Shon's just sitting there like it's a smooth-air demo flight at 7am. And on top of that, he's genuinely one of the nicest people around GBA. Always respectful, always easy to talk to, and consistently kind to everyone... yes, including the front office (which we absolutely notice).

Which is exactly why he's about to be such a good instructor. Students are going to feel comfortable immediately, but don't get it twisted... he's still going to hold a standard. It's that perfect combo of "you're doing great" and "we're gonna clean that up again." Elite teaching energy.

Also... we do need to address the power-off 180s. Because they are locked in. Like, suspiciously accurate. The kind where you're watching from the ramp thinking "there's no way he's making that"... and then he absolutely does. Every time. It's getting a little out of hand.

Outside of flying, Shon keeps it just as dialed. Big golf guy, enjoys being out on the course, and has strong opinions about sushi... which honestly tracks. Precision in the airplane, precision in his hobbies. Consistency across the board.

And now for the most on-brand part of this entire thing... how is Shon celebrating becoming a CFI?

Going home and taking a nap.

No party. No chaos. Just a solid, well-earned nap.

Honestly... future instructor of the year behavior already.

Sony, officially a CFI 🛩️🎉

If you've met Sony, you know he's not the loudest one in the room but he's absolutely one of the most solid. Calm, reserved, and consistently kind, he's the kind of person you trust right away, whether that's in the airplane or just talking through a tough concept on the ground. And now he's bringing that same steady presence into the right seat as an instructor.

His aviation story started early, getting interested at just 12 years old, and it's clearly stuck. Fast forward to now, balancing life working at Southwest while continuing to chase this path, and turning that long time passion into something real. Becoming a CFI isn't easy, and Sony did it the same way he does everything else, quietly, consistently, and with a ton of discipline. Huge shoutout to his instructor Shane for guiding him through it. From wanting to be a 777 captain to now teaching others how to fly, pretty solid trajectory if you ask us.

He's from Corning, CA and a big sushi guy, which feels very on brand. When he's not flying, he says he's either working or sleeping, which honestly checks out... but we all know there's probably some aviation thinking happening in there too. He also loves being outdoors and just being around airplanes in general, which makes him fit right into the GBA crew.

And one thing that really stands out about Sony is how he carries himself. He keeps it simple, stays humble, and just shows up ready to do the work every single time. No ego, no shortcuts, just steady progress and a genuine care for doing things the right way. That kind of mindset is exactly what makes a great instructor.

Big congrats, Sony. GBA's lucky to have you on the instructor side now. Go enjoy that celebratory drink... you definitely earned it 🍷🛩️



Sony Danse- CFI