

# THE HOLD SHORT

**A** 16MAY - 22MAY

## SOMETIMES WE FORGET HOW COOL THIS ACTUALLY IS

When you are around airplanes every day, it becomes weirdly normal.

You stop thinking twice about sunsets over the Sierras at 8,500 feet. You forget that hearing "cleared for takeoff" still gives most people goosebumps. You stop noticing that pulling onto the ramp at sunrise is objectively one of the coolest commutes possible.

But for someone who has never been around aviation before? It is unforgettable.

One of the best parts of the airport is watching someone experience it for the first time. Maybe it is a friend tagging along for a lesson. A family member who finally comes out to watch a flight. Someone who always thought aviation was "for other people" until they sat in the plane and realized it might actually be possible.

That is usually how it starts.

Most pilots can trace their aviation story back to one person who opened the door. Someone who brought them to the airport. Someone who said, "You should try this." Someone who let them sit in the airplane, ask questions, and see the world a little differently.

Aviation grows through people sharing it.

That is part of what makes the community at Great Basin Aviation special. Students bring parents out after solos. Renters take friends on weekend breakfast flights. Families stop by to see what their son, daughter, spouse, or friend has been spending all their time talking about. Before long, somebody else is asking about discovery flights, ground school, or how to get started.

And honestly, that is how some of the best pilots we know ended up here in the first place.

So next time you are heading to the airport, bring someone with you. Let them see the chaos, the excitement, the ramp stories, the checkride stress, the post-flight smiles, and the moments that make aviation addictive.

You never know whose pilot story might start with a simple airport visit.

## 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 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.
- 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



## Pilot of the Month- Julien Azelart

This month's Pilot of the Month goes to Julien Azelart 🌟✈️

If you've spent any amount of time around the office lately, you've probably met Julien. And if you have, you already know exactly why he's getting this.

Julien was born in Grapevine, Texas (Texas mention required, obviously), but grew up in Hawaii, which honestly explains the permanent calm energy he somehow maintains even while juggling written studying, flight training, radios, and whatever else we throw at him at GBA. Aviation also runs in the family with his dad being a pilot, and you can definitely tell flying has been around him for a long time because he has picked things up FAST.

From day one, Julien has shown up eager to learn, asks good questions, takes feedback seriously, and actually applies it the next flight. Multiple CFIs have commented on how naturally the radios have come to him, which for student pilots is basically the equivalent of hearing "you parallel park well in downtown San Francisco." Not an easy thing to do.

To make the day even better, Julien also went out and scored a 90% on his written exam today because apparently being good at one thing wasn't enough. Pilot of the Month and a 90% on the written in the same day... what can't this guy do?

He's heading back to Hawaii for a week soon (so lucky), but will be back soon after. And with the way things are going, his upcoming checkride is one he's absolutely going to crush.

We're super proud to have Julien as part of the GBA family and can't wait to keep watching his journey unfold. Huge congrats Julien, well deserved 🙌🌸✈️

Huge congrats to Gio on officially earning his Commercial Certificate 🙌✈️ If you've been around GBA for more than about five minutes, chances are you've met Gio. And if you have, you already know he somehow manages to combine elite pilot energy with peak dad energy and legendary fanny pack commitment all at the same time.

Gio has absolutely flown through his ratings since starting training here, and today was no different. He went out and absolutely nailed his power-off 180 because apparently grease landings are just part of his personality now.

Beyond being a great pilot, Gio is just an awesome person to have around the school. Always smiling, always positive, always good to talk to, and the kind of person who makes long days better. Whether he's talking flying, family, life, or somehow defending the Cowboys every week, he brings good energy everywhere he goes. He's also someone who is always willing to help other pilots out, share knowledge, and talk through things with people. Gio has become an incredibly knowledgeable pilot in a short amount of time, and it's been awesome watching him grow through training.

Outside of aviation, Gio serves in the Guard, is an incredible dad, and has been balancing all of that while crushing flight training which makes this accomplishment even more impressive. We also have to give a shoutout to his wife, who we all love as well, and who is about to finish PA school herself. Power couple status officially confirmed.

And to make things even better, Gio joins the RTO team with the rest of us next week. Let's just hope his running goes as smoothly as his checkride did today.

Super proud of you, Gio. Commercial pilot officially unlocked 🙌



## Commercial- Gio Rodriguez

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# GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT



## GREAT BASIN AVIATION'S YOUNG AVIATOR BOOT CAMP



Join us for Great Basin Aviation's Annual Young Aviator Boot Camp! A hands-on, high-energy camp designed for teens who are curious about flying, aircraft, and all things aviation. Held at Atlantic Aviation at Reno-Tahoe Airport, this camp gives you an inside look at how aviation really works. You'll learn about flight dynamics, airport operations, and explore real career paths in aerospace and aviation. You'll tour aviation facilities, meet industry professionals, and yes, you'll even have the chance to fly.

But this camp is more than just flight time. It's about discovering what it takes to be a pilot, mechanic, air traffic controller, and more. All materials and lunch are included.

A parent or guardian must attend a required info night before camp begins. A student application is required, and space is limited to one participant per household.

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Open to aviation enthusiasts ages 13-16 years old.

DATE: Monday July 6th-Friday July 10th

TIME: 9:00AM - 3:00PM

LOCATION: Atlantic Aviation, 655 S Rock Blvd, Reno

COST: \$250 (scholarships available based on need)

Space is limited. Please reach out to Jenn Fonda, [Jenn@GreatBasinAviation.com](mailto:Jenn@GreatBasinAviation.com) for more details and/or an application. **Applications due by 5/31/2026.**