

# THE HOLD SHORT

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8AUG-14AUG

## EXPAND YOUR AVIATION FOOTPRINT

This may feel like a repetitive message, but it needs to continue to be communicated. If you are looking at a career in aviation, you need to start changing your mindset. The industry is not what it was a few years ago and simply following the easiest or most familiar path is no longer a guarantee of success.

Start researching jobs early, before you have the hours or qualifications to apply. Learn what employers are looking for, build connections, attend aviation events, and pay attention to opportunities outside the traditional pipeline. Flight instructing can be a valuable way to gain experience, but a CFI certificate does not guarantee an instructing position. It is one possible route, not the only route.

Take an honest look at your logbook. If nearly every hour has been logged from the same home base and flown the same routes, it may be time to expand your aviation footprint. Seek out unfamiliar airports, different types of airspace, varied terrain and weather, and opportunities to fly different aircraft from different airports.

Jobs are out there, but they may not be located where you expected, follow the schedule you imagined, or look exactly like your original plan. You may need to travel, relocate, accept an unconventional opportunity, take a step back before forward, or take a position that helps you build valuable industry experience before you reach the cockpit job you ultimately want.

Your home base is where you build your foundation, but it should not define the limits of your experience or professional network. Aviation rewards pilots who are adaptable, proactive, and willing to step outside their comfort zone. Do not wait until you need a job to begin looking for one. Start preparing now, expand your connections, and make every hour count.

## REMINDERS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

- Starting in September, GBA will be closed on Sundays so we can spend time with our families.
- 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.
- Make sure you are following summer heat restrictions. Check with the office or your instructor if you have questions.
- Check with the office and/of CFI about any flying over Burning Man. All requirements need to be met.

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# GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT



## Jason Dorn- CPL

Some people just look like they belong in an airplane, and Jason Dorn is definitely one of them. Today, one of our longtime GBA veterans officially added Commercial Pilot to his list of accomplishments, and we could not be more excited to celebrate him!

Jason has been part of the GBA family for quite some time, and he is truly one of those people who makes this place better simply by being around. He's professional, kind, easygoing, and always a pleasure to have in the office. Between working at Grateful Gardens and continuing to make flying a priority, Jason does an incredible job balancing a busy work life while still showing up, putting in the work, and continuing to progress in aviation.

And today, all of that work paid off. ☀️ It was a HOT one out there, the kind of Nevada summer day that asks a little extra from both the pilot and the airplane, but Jason handled it exactly how we've come to expect him to: calmly, professionally, and with a whole lot of skill. Jason told us he tends to perform well under pressure, and apparently he knows himself pretty well because he absolutely nailed everything today.

His instructor, Andy Glenn, describes Jason as one of the most naturally skilled pilots he's worked with. He has that combination you love to see in a pilot: natural ability paired with professionalism, good judgment, and a willingness to keep learning. Earning a Commercial Certificate is no small accomplishment, and Jason proved today that he belongs at that next level.

There's something especially cool about watching someone who has been around GBA for so long continue to reach new milestones. Jason isn't just another name on the schedule, he's a familiar face and someone we're always genuinely happy to see walk through the door.

As for the celebration? Jason said tonight might involve a well-earned beer. 🍺 After battling the heat and crushing a Commercial checkride, we'd say he earned that one.

Jason, congratulations on an incredible accomplishment! We are so proud to have you as part of the GBA family and even prouder to officially call you a Commercial Pilot. 🛩️🍻

## ✈️ PRIVATE PILOT: SOPHIA SANCHEZ!! ✈️

Huge congratulations to Sophia Sanchez on officially earning her Private Pilot Certificate!! 🐱 Sophia is the definition of a go-getter. She's incredibly smart, hardworking, and capable, but you'd never know just how much she knows because she's also one of the most humble people around. She quietly puts in the work, shows up ready to learn, and today it all paid off. Safe to say, the biggest feeling after that checkride was RELIEF. 😊

Sophia may be super sweet, but don't let that fool you, there is definitely a spunky side hiding in there. She's been known to roast a few of us around the office from time to time... Andrew especially. We won't elaborate. 🤔 When she's not flying, there's a pretty good chance Sophia is thinking about cars. She drives a very nice Mustang, her favorite movie is Cars, and she's a Lightning McQueen fan through and through. Honestly, earning a pilot certificate while loving Lightning McQueen feels very on brand. Ka-chow. 🚗

⚡ She also somehow manages to show up to the airport looking cute every single day, usually rocking her favorite color, black, while the rest of us look like we just crawled out from under a Cessna. It's getting a little inconsiderate at this point.

Sophia has big goals of becoming an airline pilot someday, and knowing her drive, intelligence, and work ethic, we have no doubt she's going to make it happen. We are SO proud of you, Sophia, and so lucky to have your sweetness, humor, style, and occasional office roasting around GBA.

PPL: DONE. Next stop: the airlines. ✈️

Congrats, Sophia!!! And in the words of Lightning McQueen... KACHOW! ⚡🏁



## Sophia Sanchez- PPL

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# GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT

Another Private Pilot has entered the chat 🛩️🔥

Huge congratulations to Ian Butler on officially earning his Private Pilot Certificate! Ian is one of those guys who may seem reserved at first... until you get him talking. Then you quickly realize he's hilarious and, thanks to his career in property management, has an absolutely endless supply of some of the craziest stories we've ever heard. 😂 Seriously, every time Ian starts a story, you have absolutely no idea where it's going, but you know it's going to be good.

Ian also served our country in the Army National Guard, and we're incredibly grateful for his service. That same calm, disciplined, and steady demeanor has carried over into his flight training.

Working alongside his instructor, Josh, Ian has continued to grow into a confident and capable pilot. Today was the culmination of all those lessons, study sessions, flights, and hours of preparation, and apparently he came very prepared, because he absolutely cruised through his oral.

And because apparently flying airplanes wasn't enough, we also learned Ian can drive a stick shift... so at this point, if it has an engine and requires some coordination, we're pretty confident Ian can figure it out. 😊

One of our favorite parts about flight training is getting to know the people behind the pilot certificate, and Ian has been such a great person to have around GBA. Between his quiet sense of humor, unbelievable stories, willingness to work hard, and the steady way he carries himself, he's definitely made his mark around here. Ian, we're incredibly proud of you and everything you put into reaching this milestone. Earning your PPL is no small accomplishment, and today you proved that all of the work was worth it. We hope you take a minute to enjoy this one. You earned it.

Congratulations, Private Pilot Ian Butler! We can't wait to hear the stories that come from this next chapter... although knowing Ian, we're slightly concerned about what those stories might entail. 😂🛩️

## Ian Butler- PPL

🛩️ PRIVATE PILOT ALERT — ALYSSA YERICK! 🛩️

A HUGE congratulations to Alyssa Yerick on officially earning her Private Pilot Certificate! 🎉🛩️

Alyssa is one of those people who sets a goal, holds herself to an incredibly high standard, and works until she gets there. She is driven, motivated, disciplined, and definitely a little bit of a perfectionist 😊. That determination has shown throughout her training, and seeing all of her hard work come together on checkride day was so well deserved!

Aviation is especially meaningful for Alyssa because she is officially a third generation pilot, following in the footsteps of both her mom and grandpa, who are pilots themselves. Alyssa isn't just earning a certificate, she's continuing a pretty incredible family tradition while beginning an aviation story of her own. Originally from Las Vegas, Alyssa now attends UNR, where she studies biochemistry and plans to become an optometrist, although biomechanics may also be somewhere in her future. Whether it's academics or aviation, she clearly isn't afraid of a challenge, and we know that work ethic will take her far.

A huge shoutout to her instructors, Andrew and Cory, for guiding, challenging, and preparing her along the way. Earning a Private Pilot Certificate takes countless hours of studying, flying, perseverance, and trust in yourself, and Alyssa should be incredibly proud of what she accomplished.

For now, she plans to enjoy being a private pilot and have some fun flying before deciding if an Instrument Rating is next. And we also have to mention that she somehow manages to be ridiculously photogenic even after a checkride... some people really do get it all. 😊

Congratulations, Alyssa! We are so proud of the pilot you've become and grateful GBA got to be part of this accomplishment. Here's to continuing a family legacy, creating one of your own, and many more hours in the sky! 💙🛩️



## Alyssa Yerick- PPL



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# GBA STUDENTS TAKING FLIGHT



**Holden Stone- CFI**

✈️ CFI ALERT: HOLDEN STONE! ✈️

A HUGE congratulations to Holden Stone on officially earning his Certified Flight Instructor Certificate! 🎉✈️

If you've spent any amount of time around GBA, chances are you know Holden. When he's not flying, he's one of our line techs, helping keep things moving around here and always bringing plenty of personality (and usually a story) along with him. Holden is one of those people who has seemingly lived about 12 different lives already. 😊 He's originally from Hawaii, is incredibly talented at jiu jitsu, is a devoted dad and family man, and every once in a while will casually drop a completely insane piece of Holden lore that leaves the rest of us wondering how we've never heard it before.

Most recently, we learned at the GBA company party that he can casually throw a sideways gainer off a boat... because apparently being a pilot, line tech, jiu jitsu guy, and dad wasn't enough. 😊

Behind all the stories and fun, though, Holden is someone who works incredibly hard and cares deeply about his family. Earning a CFI certificate is no small accomplishment. It takes a whole new level of aviation knowledge, preparation, patience, and the ability to turn everything you've learned as a pilot into something you can now teach to someone else.

A huge shoutout to his instructor, Shane Smith, for helping prepare him for this milestone!

Congratulations, Holden! We are incredibly proud of you and grateful to have you as part of the GBA family. You've already lived enough lives to give us stories for years, and now you get to add flight instructor to the list. We can't wait to see the pilots you help shape and where this next chapter takes you! 💙✈️