

THE HOLD SHORT

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1AUG-7AUG

MORE THAN ONE RUNWAY

For many professional pilots, becoming a CFI is the traditional next step after earning their commercial certificate. It is a great way to sharpen your skills, build flight time, and gain experience, but it is not the only path forward, and a CFI certificate does not automatically guarantee an instructor position at the school where you trained.

Hiring decisions depend on many factors, including student demand, fleet size, instructor availability, experience, professionalism, and the operational needs of the school. As Great Basin Aviation evaluates its fleet and future needs, instructor openings may be limited. Students approaching the end of their training should plan accordingly and begin exploring opportunities well before the ink is dry on their temporary certificate.

Look beyond the most familiar runway. Depending on your qualifications and long-term goals, opportunities may exist in aerial survey, charter operations, aircraft delivery, airport operations, dispatch, military aviation, pipeline patrol, right-seat programs, or instructing at another flight school. Networking throughout your training, not just when you need a job, is also incredibly important.

Your instructors and the GBA team are always happy to offer advice, review a résumé, provide a reference when appropriate, or help you identify possible next steps. We want to see our students succeed, even when their next chapter takes them somewhere beyond Great Basin Aviation.

The aviation industry rewards pilots who are prepared, flexible, professional, and willing to consider more than one route. Build several paths into your career plan. Sometimes the best opportunity is waiting on a runway you had not originally considered.

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.
- You really do read Hold Short! Stop by this week and say, "I'm exploring every runway," for a little surprise no later than end of day Saturday.
- 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.



Ravi Patel- PPL

Congratulations to our newest Private Pilot, Ravi Patel! 🎉✈️

Some people come back from a break and ease into things. Ravi Patel came back and hit the throttle.

After already putting in a ton of work toward his Private Pilot Certificate, Ravi returned to GBA with one goal in mind: finish what he started. And wow... did he ever. For the last month, it felt like he practically lived at the airport, flying, studying, and putting in the work every single day. His determination was unreal, and now he's got the certificate to prove it! A huge shoutout to his instructor, Derrick, for helping Ravi cross the finish line. The two made an awesome team, and it's been so much fun watching it all come together.

If you've ever met Ravi, you know this achievement couldn't have happened to a kinder person. He's the type of student who's always smiling, always cracking a joke, always positive, and somehow manages to make everyone else's day a little better just by being around. He quickly became one of those familiar faces at GBA that everyone was happy to see walk through the door.

When we asked who he'd call first after passing his checkride, there wasn't even a pause: his mom. ❤️ He also said his dad has officially claimed the honor of being his very first passenger, and somewhere very soon, a very excited family group chat is about to get some pretty incredible news.

Ravi is heading back to Mongolia this week, where he teaches humanities, and while we're excited for him, we're definitely going to miss having him around the airport.

Ravi, thank you for bringing your work ethic, your positivity, and your sense of humor to GBA. You reminded us what can happen when you stay focused, trust the process, and refuse to quit.

Now go make your dad's first flight a good one... and don't forget to send us pictures from Mongolia. 😊

Congratulations Ravi! We couldn't be happier for you. ✈️

The headset can finally come off... Brett Nelson is officially a Private Pilot! After what felt like countless hours of studying, flying, and hanging around GBA (seriously, we started expecting to see him every day 😊), Brett has officially crossed the finish line, and we couldn't be more excited for him. If you've spent more than five minutes around Brett, you know exactly why everyone loves having him around. He's got a huge personality, keeps everyone laughing, and somehow makes even the longest study sessions a little more fun. Behind all the jokes, though, is someone who worked incredibly hard and was fully committed to reaching this goal.

When we asked Brett how he was going to celebrate, his answer said everything about who he is. He said he just wants to spend time with his family because he's been so MIA while studying, and he can't wait to make up for lost time. We love that. Family has always been a huge priority for Brett, and it's pretty special that after accomplishing such a massive milestone, that's where his mind went first.

Of course, no celebration would be complete without taking up fellow GBA student Mike Lilyquist. These two have been grinding through this journey together, and now Brett finally gets to remind Mike that he's got a little catching up to do in the passenger seat. 😊

Brett, we're so proud of you. Thanks for bringing your energy, your humor, and your heart to GBA every single day. Congratulations, pilot! Now go enjoy some well-deserved family time.



Brett Nelson- PPL