

Winter 2025 Newsletter



COCKPIT NOTES - KEEP HAILEY AND NICOLE HAPPY

- **Renter's Insurance Policy Reminder:** If you are rated to fly the aircraft, please remember that a renter's insurance policy is mandatory. We cannot dispatch the aircraft unless the policy is on file. This requirement also extends to safety pilots and any buddies you take flying. If they touch the controls, they must have insurance. Remember, as per your rental agreement, you are the Pilot in Command (PIC) at all times.
- **Please report any anomalies you notice before your flight** and any issues or damage immediately after landing. Prompt reporting helps us address concerns quickly, ensuring the continued safety, reliability, and airworthiness of our aircraft for all pilots. Your attention to detail keeps everyone flying safely!
- To ensure smooth operations and allow time for essential services like fuel trucks, maintenance, and aircraft inspections, **all flight scheduling is set to begin at the top of the hour.** This timing helps coordinate necessary ground support, reduces delays, and keeps our fleet in top condition. Please plan accordingly and allow extra time for any pre-flight needs. Your cooperation helps us maintain safety, efficiency, and a seamless flight experience for everyone.
- **Unfortunately, we do not accept BasicMed for flight training** and rentals. This insurance requirement ensures that all pilots meet the necessary medical standards for safe operations. A minimum Third-Class Medical Certificate is required for all students and renters, as it provides a direct FAA evaluation and aligns with our insurance policy, ensuring compliance with safety regulations and operational standards.

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Aviation scholarships are out there, but finding them takes some dedicated screen time and research. If you're willing to put in the effort, free money for flight training is up for grabs!
- Here are a couple of local scholarships to check out:
 - The Reno Area Chapter 99s is offering **two** scholarships for women pilots in the local area. Please see Hailey or Nicole for more info.
 - The Reno Air Race Association will continue to offer local flight training scholarships for Private Pilot. The window will be opening soon. Check their website regularly for updates. Completing the Private Pilot Knowledge Test is a requirement for application, so hit the books!
 - <https://airrace.org/flight-training-scholarships/>
- Keep an eye out for more opportunities, and don't hesitate to ask if you need guidance on applying!

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Holden Stone - Solo
- Zachary Slate - PPL
- Alex Shaw - Solo
- Rusty Taft - PPL
- Joshua Gilmore - PPL
- Jared Garrido - PPL
- Ryan Kwan - PPL
- Seth Ruff - PPL
- Kiera Grange - PPL
- Brendan Gomez - Solo
- Nicole Gonzalez - CPL
- Alexander Florez - PPL
- Robert Schuermann - PPL
- Jeremy Martinez - CFI
- Shawn Tuckett - Solo
- Zeus Wesley - Solo
- Eric Stanger - IPR
- Taylor Browning - Solo
- Chris Pozarski - PPL
- Alex Crupi - PPL
- Kurtis Lemay - CPL
- Taylor Pritchard - IPR
- David Tole - Solo
- Allan Fox - PPL
- Nick Sundstrom - IPR
- Elliot Fehr - Solo
- Alex Shaw - PPL
- Andy Glenn - CPL
- Greg Anthenien - CFI
- Kyle Brazil - PPL
- Holden Stone - PPL
- Jacob Hulsizer - Solo
- Derrick Craine - IPR
- Sanddon Sherwood-Kopko - CPL
- Maks Barger - PPL
- Hayli Stewart - Solo
- Brendan OBrien - PPL
- Kevin Jerde - IPR
- Colton Urquhart - IPR
- Justin Cooper - CPL
- Jason Dorn - PPL
- Aidan McAllister - Solo
- Ben Benesch - Solo
- Ben Benesch - PPL
- Cody Bullard - Solo
- Jesse Surry - Solo
- Alan Chou - Solo
- Avery Redmon - PPL
- Cody Bullard - PPL
- Kurt Finney - PPL
- Taylor Browning - PPL
- Brendan Gomez - PPL
- Zeus Wesley - PPL
- Bryson Gay - PPL
- Shane McAlister - CFI
- Ava Armen - PPL
- David O'Hara - Solo
- Ryan Madole - Solo



GET TO KNOW FELLOW GBA PILOT, AVA ARMEN



Hi everyone! My name is Ava Armen. I'm 18 years old, and originally from Pennsylvania. I moved to Reno over a decade ago and haven't looked back since! I'm just a few weeks past earning my Private Pilot Certificate and, as you can imagine, I'm excited to start on the next step. I'm a self-proclaimed "people person," which has shaped a lot of the decisions I've made in life. Whether I'm working at Trader Joe's or majoring in Communications at TMCC, I love talking to others. In fact, if you get me started on something, good luck getting me to stop. Flying, for me, is all about community. I've grown up flying with United Airlines, and their slogan, "Connecting People. Uniting the World," speaks volumes to me. It's exactly what I want to do—help connect people, whether that's getting them home or sending them off on new adventures. My dream is to become a commercial airline pilot. Some might joke that it's like being a glorified bus driver, and I'm content with that! When it comes to flying I feel people don't understand it until they're part of it. They wonder why pilots drone on about it so often. But, truly, there's nothing else like it. I mean just causally being some thousands of feet in the air on a Monday? Never had a better view until I was in a Cessna 172! I feel incredibly lucky to be part of the aviation community which never rests, and continues to keep people connected. In a nutshell that's why I fly, but I wouldn't have had a clue without Great Basin Aviation. They've been instrumental in helping me turn my passion and dream into reality. When I'm not at Great Basin Aviation, you can usually find me plugging away at my grocery store job or ice skating at Reno Ice. A very special thanks to my instructors who are seeing me through this license, along with my mom, grandma, and friends, who all graciously listen to my long-winded flying stories.



INSTRUCTOR SPOTLIGHT: CORY KLEIDOSTY

Cory is a CFI that has had a strong connection to all things aviation from a young age. He earned all of his ratings from Private to Flight Instructor at, Great Basin Aviation! He comes from a family immersed in aviation, including a few other pilots in the lineage. He has previously held a supervisor role at Southwest Airlines, so it is safe to say that aviation is always on his mind. Cory graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2019 with a Bachelors degree in Economics and Minor in Communication Studies, but has switched gears and has had his eyes to the sky since. When he isn't flying, you can find him at the local fishing holes or traveling to new destinations with his wonderful wife.

WHEELS UP WITH JENN



Hello from Overseas!

I wanted to take a moment to reach out and say how much I love hearing about all the success happening back home while I'm away on deployment. Seeing the progress, achievements, and milestones of our Great Basin Aviation family makes me even more excited to return, reconnect, and celebrate with you all.

A special milestone just passed—GBA's 7-year anniversary! This journey wouldn't be possible without our incredible community of students, instructors, and supporters. A huge thank you also goes out to key team members who have been with GBA since the beginning: Bob Bennett, Richard Brong, and Danny Britson. Their dedication has played a vital role in shaping GBA into what it is today.

The proof of our success is written on the walls—literally and figuratively. GBA-trained pilots are now flying for major airlines, regionals, military aircraft, charter operations, and, of course, just for the love of flying. We've seen firsthand what dedication, perseverance, and the right training can accomplish. Every lesson, every hour, and every challenge along the way has a purpose, even if it's not always obvious in the moment. Trust in the process, stay the course, and know that we are here to guide you each step of the way.

Aviation is our passion, and we're honored to share it with you. If you ever have feedback on how we can make your experience even better, we're always here to listen. But most of all, thank you for being part of GBA—we look forward to continuing this journey together and helping you achieve your aviation dreams.

Blue skies,
Jenn



Richard's Stick and Rudder Wisdom

BEYOND THE COCKPIT:

THE TRUE MEANING OF PROFESSIONALISM IN AVIATION

What is a professional? We hear that term tossed around a lot . "Call the professionals!"

We typically associate someone who is a professional as someone who gets paid to perform a certain specialized task for the world. Being a professional requires specialized training and expertise and requires a level of trust who place their care in the professional's hands. When you think about it, being a professional is also an attitude. Have you ever received service from a professional who was anything but, though? Of course and it likely left a bad impression. The professional who forgets they are there to help and serve others sometimes doesn't last very long! This all holds true in aviation just the same as in all aspects of life.

On my first flight with a passenger after I got my PPL, my friend told me, "That was great! Very professional!" While that may not seem like a big deal, it was to me. As aviators, we have to embody a set of high standards in all that we do even if we are not collecting a paycheck from it. Every move we make in the sky is watched from many angles whether it be from the passengers you carry, ATC, the neighbors you fly over near airports, to the general public that sees you in the sky over their homes and businesses. I know that flying feels like the ultimate escape from the world at times where you can just be alone with your thoughts while you are aloft. While that can be true in the cockpit, you're still part of a bigger community that expects professional conduct from you every step of the way!

A professional attitude in aviation recognizes that you are not the center of the universe. Instead, you are a moving part in a complex system. People rely on you and expect you to act according to an unwritten code of conduct. This is true whether you are flying for a breakfast run or flying for your career. Attitude is just as important as skills in this respect.

Taking unnecessary risks or lacking transparency in your shortcomings is not only unprofessional, it is a hazardous attitude. Maintaining a humble side is crucial. Face it, no pilot is perfect no matter how much experience they have. It is important to maintain the professional approach that you are never quite at the top of the mountain and, instead, always striving for further development of your skills. This continues continued service to the people that put trust in you to operate your aircraft to the highest standards of safety.

Be a professional aviator regardless of the certificate you hold or the hours in your logbook.

GBA IN THE COMMUNITY: LIFTING OTHERS THROUGH AVIATION

Operation Operation Santa Claus

Each year, Reno-Tahoe International Airport spreads holiday cheer through Operation Santa Claus, a heartwarming event dedicated to bringing joy to local children in need. This special initiative, organized in partnership with the airport, airlines, and community volunteers, gives children the chance to experience the magic of aviation while receiving gifts, meeting Santa, and enjoying a day full of festive activities.

Great Basin Aviation is proud to be part of this incredible event, helping to share the love of flight with the community. Whether through supporting logistics, volunteering, or simply sharing our passion for aviation, we are honored to contribute to making this holiday season brighter for these kids.

Being involved in Operation Santa Claus is just another way we give back to the community that supports us year-round. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success!



Building Future Aviators: School Leadership Takes Flight!



We're excited to share that as we work on building a partnership with area schools, we had the opportunity to take three representatives from the district and AACT up for a flight! They got a firsthand taste of the magic of aviation while also exploring how we integrate cutting-edge technology—like our SIM training—into real-world flight education.

This collaboration is all about inspiring the next generation of aviators, and we're looking forward to what's ahead!

Watch for more info on this year's Young Aviator Boot Camp!

Exciting things are on the horizon for young aviation enthusiasts! We're gearing up for another Young Aviator Boot Camp this summer, designed for students ages 13-16 who are eager to explore the world of aviation. This hands-on experience will offer flight time opportunities, career exploration, and exclusive site visits to aviation-related organizations. Whether they dream of becoming a pilot or just want to learn more about how aircraft operate, this camp is the perfect introduction to the skies. Stay tuned for more details on dates, location, and registration coming soon! Space will be limited, so be sure to check back for updates. For questions or early inquiries, feel free to reach out to Jenn@GreatBasinAviation.com.



