

Home

Contribute | Subscribe | Advertise | Place an Ad | Archives | E-edition | RSS Feeds | Contact Us

The Record-Courier

Site search sponsored by  Search

News Sports Entertainment Opinion Living Community Outdoors Photos + Videos Visitors' Guide Games Jobs Real Estate Autos Classifieds

58.0°F Monday June 8th

VIDEO LIBRARY RENT 3 NEW RELEASES for \$10.99

775.782.7114 1770 HWY 395, MINDEN (near Cinema 8 in the Ironwood Center)
Sun-Thurs: 10am-10pm, Fri-Sat: 10am-11pm



Home > >

Student pilot takes to the skies

Send us your news

<< back
Friday, September 12, 2008

by Sheila Gardner
Staff Writer

Email Print Comment Recommend Share on Facebook



ENLARGE

Sixteen-year-old John Patchell and the Cessna 172SP he flew on Monday at the Minden-Tahoe Airport.
Shannon Litz/The R-C

While his classmates were studying physics in the classroom Monday, 16-year-old John Patchell was putting Bernoulli's principle and Newton's laws of gravity to work as he soloed for the first time in a Cessna 172SP at Minden-Tahoe Airport.

"It was great," Patchell said. "I was not too nervous on the take-off. The landing was kind of hard."

Patchell piloted the plane for about 20 minutes early Monday.

"I like the thrill and being able to do what a lot of people can't do," he said.

The Douglas High School junior began taking flying lessons in June at Flying Start Aero.

His instructors, John Brown and Bill Schroeder, saw his skill and dedication.

Schroeder said it takes 50-60 hours to obtain a private pilot's license; a student may solo after 15-20 hours of instruction, but is not allowed to take passengers until he earns his license.

"Flying solo is a real transition," Schroeder said. "It's the first time a student is allowed to fly the aircraft by themselves. As a flight instructor, we do keep tabs on the student and make sure they are capable of what they think they are capable of."

Before his first lesson, Patchell completed ground school at Western Nevada College where he learned the basics. He hopes to join the U.S. Marine Corps as a pilot after he finishes college, with a goal toward becoming a commercial airlines pilot.

Patchell said he feels safer piloting an airplane than driving a car.

"There are a lot less airplanes in the sky than cars on the road," he said. "And pilots communicate with each other. With cars, you never know what's going to happen."

The lessons are expensive, but Patchell worked out a payment plan with Flying Start Aero.

"I call it an investment," Schroeder said. "You'll have your pilot's license for the rest of your life."

Schroeder said while some might see Patchell's youth as a risk, the veteran master flight instructor believes it is an asset.

"It is a young age," he said. "However, what you see is the ability of the younger person to be a quick learner. They understand after several hours in an aircraft, there is some responsibility. You do not just get in an airplane and fly. Not all 16-year-olds have it. It's up to the flight instructor to make that determination. We really watch them."

Email Print ShareThis facebook

Ads by Google

Welcome, Guest

LOGIN | Become a Member | What's This?

Event Calendar

Submit an Event

- 6/9/2009 2 for Tuesday
- 6/9/2009 The First Tee Golf & Life Skills Education Program
- 6/9/2009 Summer Under the Stars - Praise & Worship Concert
- 6/9/2009 Social dance
- 6/9/2009 Swing dancing
- 6/10/2009 Farmers Market

TEENSAFE DRIVER PROGRAMSM
Hand over the keys with confidence.

CONTACT
Mike Eddy Agency
(775) 783-9422
meddy@amfam.com



American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries 002856-8/07

Search Local Business Listings:
Powered by Local.com

Jobs Real Estate Classifieds

Top Jobs: more

Nevada Weather Report

Get Nevada Maps, Weather & Road Conditions - Free Visitor Guide.
TravelNevada.com

Harry Reid uses clout as

Majority Leader to push proposal to help Nevada Homeowners
www.LasVegasSun.com/HousingCrisis

NEW: Reno Nursing Program

Apollo College, Reno Campus now offers Associates degree in Nursing
www.ApolloCollege.edu

Other Top Items

Related Articles	Most Recommended Articles
New deputies join sheriff's office Law requires Tahoe property owners to maintain defensible space Swim for Molly raises \$2,000 Baseball: Mannelly signs with New Mexico State	Church, school at a crossroads (24) Mom: Son made threats '... (39) Chance to dance motivates tee... (4) Friends save teen from drowni... (2)

Comments

Guideline 1

Ask great questions. Share what you know. Correct others politely if they're wrong.



See all [Community Guidelines](#)

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

Empty text input field for comments.

Submit

[About Us](#) | [Staff](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Swift Communications](#)

Fireplaces & Wood Stoves

Yes!

We are still here!

Come in and see our monthly specials!

CLEANING • INSPECTION SERVICE & REPAIRS

A.J.'s STOVES

Wood • Gas • Pellet

Serving Carson Valley/Carson City for over 20 years

Owned & Operated by Alan's Chimney Sweep

775-783-9986
1432-A Industrial Way #2, Gardnerville
www.ajstoves.com

NV LIC.# 32857

GET MORE NEWS

[Incline Village - Nevada](#)
[Truckee - California](#)
[Reno - Nevada](#)

[Carson City - Nevada](#)
[Roseburg - Oregon](#)
[South Lake Tahoe - California](#)

[Fallon - Nevada](#)
[Grass Valley - California](#)
[Lake Tahoe](#)