Airplane rental makes course costs sky high

B-CS offers many roads to pilot's license

By GARY BARKER

Battalion Reporter
For persons who have dreamed of flying and having a pilot's license, the Bryan-College Station area offers many possibilities that can make that dream come true.

Ground school, in which a potential pilot learns the fundamentals of flight, is the first step in obtaining a private pilot's license. The Federal Aviation Administration, which licenses pilots, requires a student to take ground school and pass a written exam before receiving in-flight in-struction. complete his in-flight training. The largest costs in obtaining a private pilot's license are airplane

After passing the FAA exam, which can be taken through Dr. Howard Chamberlain, a management professor at Texas A&M University, a student must have 40 hours of flying time — 20 hours with a certified flight instructor and 20 hours solo — before taking a final flight examination and receiving his license. A flight student has two years in which to

rental and instructor fees which

can total between \$1,200 and \$2,000. Ground school classes cost between \$12 and \$100 — not including books — depending on where the course is offered. Texas A&M's Department of

Industrial Education offers a ground school course, Aviation Education 475. Instructor Mike Menez said Texas A&M's course is better than most ground school

'Most ground schools are selftaught with little structure," he said. "Only a minority of people who get their private pilot's license go to a structured ground school."

Menez, who is teaching the course for the first time this fall, said the course is taught in both the fall and spring semesters. Approximately 70 students take it each semester. He said a majority of the students taking the course this semester plan to get their private pilot's licenses. The course is not required for any major but is worth three elective credit hours.

Some technical aptitude is needed to take the course, but interest is the primary factor,'

Community Education also is offering a ground school course this fall that will meet in the evening at the A&M Consolidated High School. The course, which lasts 12 weeks and costs \$31.80, is being taught by Jim Noel, an instructor for the Texas A&M Flying

The flying club offers the complete flight training program in-cluding ground school, plane rental, instructor fees, medical examination, flight check ride, and club membership for about \$1,600. Dolan said about 30 students take flight training through

the club each year.

The club, which limits itself to 100 members, sells membership shares for \$190 for flying students and students who already have a pilot's license. Each club member owns approximately 1 percent of the club's airplanes. The flying club owns three airplanes and leases three others which are kept at Easterwood Airport. If a stu-dent decides to leave the club, he receives \$140 refund for his membership share.

The flying club rents a Cessna 150 airplane for \$23.25 per hour. The same type of airplane rents for \$31 per hour at Brazos Aviation at Easterwood and for \$25 at Bryan Aero at Coulter Field.

Bryan Aero offers the complete flight training for \$1,200, not including a medical examination, check ride or ground school. They offer a home study ground school kit for \$31.95.

'The home study kit teaches the

said Roy Tribbey of Bryan Aero. 'You just have to study a little

Brazos Aviation offers the Cess-na Pilot Center Private Pilot Course for a total cost of \$1,700 to \$2,000. Bill Crockford, an instruc-

means it includes more and flight tests and is mo tured than most flight programs. The course, w cludes ground school,

The 260-pound almosts

foot sea mammal had at least skin lesions that appeared at to be entry and exit wound Dr. Raymond Tarpley,

Subsequent tests proved sions were not caused by g

the veterinary anatom

ment at Texas A&M. He said results from to

tests would be needed be more complete picture whale's death would be av

Tarpley said the animal to chronic skin ailment, the exa T

ture of which is not yet

and that the whale was hea fested with parasitic wor may have weakened it and buted to its death.

Air spaces in the Wh were free of fluids, sa

indicating that the drown. It may have

from a variety washed ashore, I

the other tests may

light on that possibilit The tests are being

at the Texas Veterinar

Diagnostic Laborator the Texas A&M Univ

tem, in cooperation R.M. "Mick" Robinson

Texas A&M from Gal Arama Marineworld,

animal had been flow

hopes of saving its life aft discovered in poor con

Corpus Christi beach. died later that night

Tarpley is a clinical asso

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Rare whale's death still mysterious, expert says

Gunshot wounds have been beach a few weeks ago, although ruled out in the death of what is the animal may have died from a

believed to be a rare pygmy sperm number of natural causes, says a whale found on a Corpus Christi Texas A&M University veterinary

Home Town Club

1st Organizational Meeting elections will be held

Tues. Sept. 15 Rm. 404 Rudder Tower

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