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Learn to fly

A&M Flying Club offering lower rates

By **DONNA HARSHMAN**
Reporter

Texas A&M students, faculty and staff can learn to fly at discounted rates if they contact the Texas A&M Flying Club.

Dr. Thomas Adair, an A&M physics professor and flying club organizer, says lessons run \$28 an hour for plane rental and \$10-\$15 for an instructor. Lessons in Houston and Dallas can run well over \$100 an hour.

Any flying license can be obtained through the club, but most students aim toward a private pilot's license.

"The FAA minimum for a private pilot's license is 20 hours with an instructor and 20 hours solo," Adair said. "A person usually needs more than the 20/20 though."

The flying club has 15 active instructors and 100 members. To become a member, students, faculty and staff must buy a \$200 share in the club. The \$200 is refundable after a club membership of one year.

Monthly dues for the flying club are \$20. The club covers the \$15,000 a year insurance costs and the \$240 a month airplane parking fee.

The flying club, which is based in

The Federal Aviation Administration's minimum for a private pilot's license is 20 hours of flying with an instructor and 20 hours solo.

a student-built clubhouse at Easterwood Airport, owns six Cessnas: three Cessna 152s, two Cessna 172s and a Mooney.

Neal Gruber, a flying club board member, said the club has changed.

"During my two and a half years in the club, facilities have developed considerably," Gruber said. "We have six dependable, quality airplanes and a new clubhouse in a prime location."

Gruber added that the club is especially proud of the Mooney—previously leased by the club—obtained last year.

The Cessnas all are fairly new; none is more than five years old. The average cost of a new Cessna 152 runs between \$17,000-\$19,000.

Besides offering lessons, the fly-

ing club is interested in promoting air safety.

"Our goal is to promote aviation and aviation safety for A&M students, faculty and staff," Adair said. "All our meetings are aimed at aviation safety."

Each year, the flying club sponsors an FAA safety seminar in Rudder Tower. The seminar is open to anyone who's interested.

The flying club also is active in several service projects.

During football games, as many as 200 planes may be at Easterwood. Flying club volunteers run a shuttle system, which brings pilots and passengers to the airport terminal.

For three years, the club helps the National Wildlife Federation count bald eagles. Volunteers fly statewide, counting as many as 450,000 eagles per year.

Adair said the flying club is always looking for new members.

"We are an active and on-going club," he said. "We are always interested in new members who want to participate and become active in the responsibilities."

State board pressured to set standard

Associated Press

GRAPEVINE — The State Board of Education will face some heavy political pressure to set a standard that could keep nearly half of Texas' high school students from graduating, officials said.

State education officials, meeting at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport Tuesday, learned that 49.9 percent of Texas' 11th-graders scored below 70 on a preliminary version of a competency test.

If 70 is set as the minimum passing score when it meets next month, it could bode disaster for many students after the actual test is administered this fall, officials said.

"Because the public believes a 70 percent correct passing standard has been sanctioned, the public is apt to view with displeasure any performance standards which do not, at least eventually, equal or exceed 70 percent correct," according to a report by IOX Assessment Associates of Culver City, Calif., which developed the test.

But Board of Education Chairman Jon Brumley said the board will probably agree on a passing grade below 70 for the first year, with incremental increases each year until the eventual permanent passing grade is met.

About 51 percent of the 14,446 students who participated in a field test of the exam last school year scored 70 percent on the math portion. Sixty-five percent got 70 percent correct on the language arts section.

Based on the field testing, only 23.7 percent of blacks and 35 percent of Hispanics would pass the Texas Educational Assessment of Minimum Skills test.

What's up

Friday

MSC GROVE '85: presents "Lone Wolf McQuade" at 8:45 p.m. in 701 Rudder. Tickets are \$1 with a student ID and \$1.50 for non-students.

TAMU CHESS CLUB: is meeting at 7 p.m. in 510 Rudder. *Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.*

MSC Dinner Theater opens summer season with 'Spangled Girl'

By **CINDY IRVING**
Reporter

The MSC Dinner Theater Committee and the Aggie Players presented this summer's first play, "The Star Spangled Girl," Wednesday.

MSC Dinner Theater, now in its twelfth season, operates only during the summer. "The Star Spangled Girl," a Neil Simon production, is the first of two plays it is presenting this year. The second production will be Agatha Christie's "Ten Little Indians" and will run July 31 - August 3.

Nancy Durrenberger, chairman of the committee, said, "The purpose of the committee is to create an enjoyable setting with a show and dinner for the students and community."

"The main goal is to bring out community effort," she said.

Durrenberger said the play is about a girl named Sophie who is a true believer in the American way of life. She moves to San Francisco where she influences the lives of two men. The men, Norman and Andy, are underground writers who write opinionated and satirical papers on everything wrong with American society. The play evolves into a three-way romantic triangle.

Durrenberger said Simon's original 1966 Broadway production, starring Connie Stevens, Anthony Perkins and Richard Benjamin portrayed that love isn't a matter of intellect but one of emotions.

Robert Wenck, an associate professor in the theater arts department, is in charge of the student play.

The cast of "The Star Spangled Girl" includes senior theater arts major Michon Breishcher as Sophie Breishcher, is also a four-year veteran of the A&M women's swim team.

Jeff Danish, who plays Norman, is a sophomore studying international marketing and theater arts major. He also is president of the Aggie Players.

Tim McEvoy, who plays Andy, is a junior theater arts major and vice president of the Aggie Players.

Tickets will be on sale at the MSC box office until 5 p.m. the day before each show, which will continue through Saturday. Tickets will be \$13 for students and \$14 for non-students.

"I am very optimistic about the play," Durrenberger said. "Ticket sales are doing great for the first show and are almost over half sold out for the remaining ones."

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