

Airfreddy's **Guide on Learning To Fly**

**Step-by-Step Guide On the Private
Pilot License From Start To Finish**



Flying Clubs

Flying Clubs are another option out there that will fall under Part 61. These are usually a group of people that own an airplane or two. They will have a flight instructor or two that work with them. They will all have different policies. Most of them may have monthly dues and the aircraft rates will be different depending on the clubs. You will want to look at everything they charge as in many cases they may have different aircraft rates.

Just Google Flying Clubs + Your City: you may be surprised at how many you find.

If you plan on flying quite a bit this is a good option to save money. If you don't fly you may have to pay a monthly fee therefore it will cost you even if you aren't flying. You just want to make sure you know all of the costs and then divide them by the total number of hours you are going to fly and you will get a per hour rate for the airplanes. I will go thru a little example and will go thru a club with wet rates and dry rates.

WET RATES: This is the rate per hour of the airplane including fuel.

DRY RATES: This is the rate per hour of the airplane not including Fuel.

WET RATES: You find a club that has a Cessna 152 and they are charging \$65 per hour for the airplane. They have a club membership fee of \$80 per month. So you end up flying twice a week and average 1.2 hours per flight therefore you would fly 9.6 hours per month. The cost per hour is figured out below:

9.6 Hours times \$65 per hour would be	\$624.00
Monthly Fee	\$80.00
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Total Cost Per Month	\$704.00

Now you want to divide that by the number of hours you flew:

$$\$704 / 9.6 = \$73.33 \text{ per hour}$$

DRY RATES: This time you find a club that has a monthly charge of \$65 per month and they charge \$35 per hour and you have to pay for fuel. We will still use the Cessna 152 for this example. This plane burns about 5.5 gallons per hour and assume that fuel is \$4 per gallon. You fly the same amount as the example above.

I will calculate the fuel for you. If we burn 5.5 gallons per hour and fuel is \$4 per gallon it will cost you \$22 per hour in fuel. I add up the cost as follows:

Monthly Fee	\$65.00
9.6 Hours times	\$336.00
9.6 Hours times \$22 per hour	\$211.00
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TOTALCOST	\$612.00

$$\$612 / 9.6 \text{ Hours} = \$63.75 \text{ per hour}$$

So in this example the Dry Rate club will be cheaper for you. You just have to add everything up per month and then divide it by the number of hours you plan on flying. Depending on the club there may be different charges. Some may have you pay for your own insurance policy or have a monthly or annual fee. Others may have an additional maintenance fee. It will depend on the club but it is pretty simple math to determine the cost per hour.

HOBBS TIME vs. TACH TIME: There are two ways that flight schools, clubs and owners track the flight time on the airplane:

HOBBS METER: Most flight schools will charge by the HOBBS meter. This is a real time tracking device. This will count time just like your watch, except it counts in 10ths of an hour. So flights would be 1.1 hours 1.2 hours etc.

TACHOMETER: The tachometer logs the engine time and it depends on the engine RPM. In most small planes 1 hour of Tach time will equal 1.2 hours of Hobbs time. It will depend on the airplane and the engine.

You will have to look at the individual club or school. Tachometer time usually ends up saving you a little bit more money, but some places may charge more for tachometer time.

Flying Club Items to Look For:

1: Initial Payment: Some Clubs will have an initial fee to join the club and then a monthly charge. Everyone is going to be slightly different so you will want to find out all costs ahead of time.

2: Monthly Fee: Most Clubs will have a monthly Fee.

3: Insurance Cost: In most cases you will be covered under the insurance. Since you would be a student Pilot, there may be a requirement for student pilot insurance. Airplane insurance is going through the roof so you will want to check into it. AOPA and Skywatch have Renters and Student Pilot Insurance policies that aren't too expensive. You will want to look into it.

[AOPA Insurance](#)

[Sky Watch Insurance](#)

4: Fuel Surcharge: Now with fuel going up through the roof some places may have wet rates along with a per hour fuel surcharge. If the club is charging dry rates, this will just be the fuel cost per hour.

5: Annual Fee: Some clubs may also have an annual fee that you would need to factor in.

6: Maintenance Fee: With the prices of everything going through the roof now, you could find that you may get an additional charge for maintenance. This would probably be engine reserves to replace the engine in the airplane. Most places have it factored in but with supply chain issues and inflation, you could get an unexpected bill.



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