

PIETERMARITZBURG



AERO CLUB

Established in 1938

*ad caelum usum proprium – the sky is ours*

SACAA/1169/ATO





**The Pietermaritzburg Aero Club is an independent, non-profit organisation aimed at fostering aviation in general and at providing flying to its members at the lowest possible rates.**

The Club operates a fleet of modern aircraft which is reviewed from time to time in keeping with its changing needs. In general, flight training is conducted on a four-seat high-wing Cessna 172 trainer or our new Sling aeroplanes, and full-time instructors are available throughout the week and weekend. For licenced pilots and advanced training, we use our four-seater Cessna 172 and other complex aircraft.

The Club is based at the Pietermaritzburg (Oribi) aerodrome, which boasts a 1580m tarred runway, but which is conveniently out of the way of heavy commercial air traffic. The suitability of the aerodrome as a centre for sport flying is exemplified by the presence of Chapter 357 of the Experimental Aircraft Association of Southern Africa which has its own hangars on the airfield.

On the social side the Club has a modern, comfortable clubhouse, a licenced pub and a swimming pool, where various functions, including the well-known “solo parties” are held. Social life, however, centres largely on Friday evenings when aircraft owners and other club members usually get together for an evening of “hangar-talk”.

### **What does it cost?**

The minimum qualification for a pilot, enabling him to carry passengers (although not for profit), is the private pilot’s licence. The syllabus for the private pilot’s licence lays down a minimum of 45 hours of combined dual and solo flying. The cost of obtaining a licence is therefore heavily dependent upon the rate per hour. The average private pilot is sent solo after 10 to 15 hours dual instruction. The exact rate per hour is revised from time to time and depends upon the aircraft used. The rates as at August 2022 are provided below:

Aug-22				Landing fee	
Aircraft	Aircraft Hire Rate p/hr	Instructor rate p/hr	Ab Initio Rate p/hr	normal	training
<b>C172</b>	R2 450,00	R431,25	R2 881,25	R150.35	R30,07
<b>Sling2</b>	R1 750,00	R431,25	R2 181,25	R117.34	R23,47

In calculating the cost of obtaining a private pilot’s licence, allow for a Club entrance fee of R300.00 and an annual subscription of R1150.

There is at present no prescribed time schedule within which the syllabus for the private pilot’s licence must be completed so that the student can fly as much or as little as he or she wishes or can afford. The only time constraint is that one has 18 months to pass all the PPL exams once passing your first exam.



## **What does it entail?**

People of either gender who are medically fit are permitted to learn to fly although they can only go solo at the age of 16 and obtain their PPL licence at 17. There is no upper age limit, provided the Flight Medical is passed.

Soon after joining the club you will be introduced to your flying instructor who will arrange a time for your first lesson – the start of your great adventure! There follows a series of lessons on the names, positions and manipulation of the various controls, each lesson being composed of a pre-flight briefing followed by the corresponding flight experience.

During this period, you must arrange to have a medical examination, including a chest x-ray and an ECG as you are not permitted to fly solo until you have been passed as medically fit.

One day, after a lesson on take-off and landing techniques, your instructor will get out of the plane, give a word of encouragement and send you away on your first solo, just you, the sky and your beautiful aeroplane...a first glimpse of what it's all about!

After the appropriate celebration, your mastery of the air is consolidated with a period of so-called upper air work, including steep turn, stalls and spins. Next comes cross country and navigation flying which in many ways, is the best part of flying and a part which certainly brings out practical advantages of the aeroplane as a means of transport. In preparation for cross-country flying, you will be given a thorough grounding in emergency procedures such as forced landings and pre-cautionary landings. Ground school lectures are required and held in conjunction with Instructors on the airfield.

The syllabus for the private pilot's licence is rounded off with a practical flight test on flying and a written examination covering the theoretical aspects of flight, navigation, engines and airframes, meteorology, human performance, flight performance & planning and aerial navigation law. These flying and written tests are conducted by the Club. The pupil pilot is also required to obtain a radio operator's licence.

When you pass all your examinations you will be awarded a private pilot's licence and you will be allowed to carry passengers. In many ways, however, the process of learning, the challenge and the fun of flying will be only beginning, and it is possible this fact which under lies the endless fascination of aviation.

**Welcome to the Club, and to the greater fraternity of airmen!**



## **Welcome to the world of flying.**

We at the Pietermaritzburg Aero Club are sure that you will find your flying training exciting and stimulating and your post licence flying, whether for business, pleasure or as a career, both enjoyable and rewarding.

Some of the most commonly asked questions regarding a private pilot's licence are the following:-

- what does it cost ?
- what are the age limits ?
- do I need a medical ?
- how long will it take ?

In this brochure we try to answer some of these questions, but we do advise all prospective students to call in at the Aero Club, if possible, and chat to the Chief Flying Instructor and have a look at the various training aircraft we operate at the Club.

### **Answers**

- A person can start learning to fly at any age but must be 16 years or older to obtain a student pilot licence which allows him to fly solo. The minimum age for a Private Pilot's Licence (PPL) is 17 years. There is generally no upper age limit and a person may continue to fly as long as they possess a valid and current medical.
- A flying medical is reasonably comprehensive and various tests form part of the medical. You will need the following for your initial medical examination: -
  - Chest X-rays
  - Audiogram (hearing test)
  - Eye test
  - Lung function - E.C.G.
  - Physical examination
- A class II medical which is required for a PPL, is valid for 5 years if you are under 40 years of age, or for 2 year if you are between 40 and 50, and 1 year if you are 50 or over.
- Although a medical is not required before you start flying, we suggest that it is obtained before or soon after you commence.
- You can do your PPL full time or part time. Your choice depends entirely upon your time and your pocket, but there must be some reasonable continuity with your lessons. We recommend a minimum of once a week. Your instructor will advise you further in this regard. There are some time limits. It must be remembered that all flying is on a cash deposit basis only.

Club membership:      Entrance fee – R300.00      Annual Subscriptions – R1150.00



## **PRIVATE PILOT LICENCE (PPL)**

Flying in S.A (excluding military flying) is governed by the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA). Legislation requires a minimum of 45 flying hours for the PPL (aeroplane). Of the required 45 hours a minimum of 15 hours must be solo flying where the student flies the aircraft on his own. It must be emphasised that these are the minimum legal requirements, and the licence does not automatically follow meeting these requirements. Before the licence is issued the applicant must undergo a flight test during which he/she has to demonstrate a minimum flying standard and level of competence. National statistics show that a very small percent of student pilots attain the required level of proficiency with the minimum prescribed hours and allowance must be made for this. It is suggested that an extra 10 to 20% be added for contingencies.

In addition to the flying, the applicant must pass 8 theoretical exams which are set by the SACAA. These exams are done on-line and the Pietermaritzburg Aero Club is an approved examination centre. The Aero Club has a “ground school” for the subjects. Attendance is not mandatory but recommended, particularly for the more complex, lengthy subjects.

A single student pilot exam is written prior to the issue of the S.P.L (Student Pilot Licence) and during the course of your training you are required to pass a radio exam. The student exam is done “in-house” and the radio exam is written through the SACAA. The Aero Club provides lectures for the radio course.

Both the Sling 2 and Cessna 172 are excellent for initial training. Which one you train in will depend on both your budget and physical size. Once you have the basic skills, learning to fly another aircraft type is a matter of Conversion training , and takes between one and five hours in the new aircraft type.

As a guide, we set out the various costs below (the 3 hours of solo consolidation in the circuit are charged out at dual rates as the instructor must be available for the duration of the flight):

THE MINIMUM FLYING HOURS REQUIRED ARE 45 HOURS OF WHICH A MINIMUM OF 15 HOURS ARE SOLO HOURS (A MINIMUM OF 5 HOURS SOLO TIME MUST BE CROSS COUNTRY HOURS).

THE STUDENT WILL ONLY PASS THE FLIGHT TEST ONCE HE OR SHE HAS DEMONSTRATED A SAFE STANDARD OF FLYING. THIS MAY TAKE MORE THAN THE MINIMUM REQUIRED HOURS.

It is prudent to budget for 55 to 65 hours. There are many factors that determine the time your training will take: your effort, weather, aircraft availability, continuity.



Minimum required hours & landings		Sling 2 - 2-seater		C172 - 4-seater	
		per hour/ per landing	Total	per hour/ per landing	Total
45	flight training (including 15 SOLO hours)	R2 181,25	R98 156,25	R2 881,25	R129 656,25
4	PPL Initial Skills Test	R2 181,25	R8 725,00	R2 881,25	R11 525,00
1	Flight Test Fee	R4 000,00	R4 000,00	R4 000,00	R4 000,00
100	landings	R23,47	R2 347,00	R30,07	R3 007,00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>R113 228,25</b>		<b>R148 188,25</b>

### **FLYING RELATED EXPENSES**

Medical Examination ±	R3 000,00	
Book, Maps, Computer etc	R1 000,00	
Online Groundschool	R13 500,00	
Flight long briefings	R4 312,50	
PPL exam fees	R2 070,00	(if all passed on first attempt)
PPL test briefing	R1 115,00	
Radio Course	R1 350,00	
English Language test	R1 000,00	
Licence Fees	R1 330,00	(if completed in the first year)
Excess Insurance for R20,000	R1 565,00	for one year
<b>Non-flying Total</b>	<b>R30 242,50</b>	

### **TOTAL PPL COST PER STUDENT:**

Sling 2 = **R143 470,75**      Cessna 172 = **R178 430,75**

Not sure if this is for you?

**Do a no-obligations TRIAL LESSON where you can fly an aircraft yourself with an Instructor by your side!**

Sling 2 - 2 seater	R1 175,00
Cessna 172 - 4 seater	R1 465,00



## **EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATE PILOTS LICENCE**

### **PPL**

- Engines and Airframes
- Air Navigation
- Meteorology
- Air Law
- Principles of Flight
- Human Performance & Limitations
- Flight Performance and Planning
- Radio Exam

### **For the navigational exercises you will need:-**

- Douglas Protractor
- Flight Computer
- Aeronautical Maps

## **OUR FLEET:**

2 X SLING 2 – 2  
SEATER TRAINER

TRAINER



ZU-WES & ZU-SAA  
MAX STUDENT  
WEIGHT 80 kgs



1 X CESSNA  
172 – 4  
SEATER  
TRAINERS

ZS-KNI MAX STUDENT WEIGHT 120 kgs

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ORIBI  
3205  
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## **FLYING MEDICALS**

### **PIETERMARITZBURG DOCTORS**

#### **Dr P. Appelt (recommended)**

Suite G, Block 3  
Medi Clinic, 60 Payne Street  
Tel: 033-3943065

### **TEST AVAILABLE**

- Lung Function
- ECG
- Eye Test
- Chest X-rays
- Audiogram

### **DURBAN DOCTORS**

#### **Dr A. Groenewald**

Umhlanga Rocks  
Tel: 031-5629393

### **TESTS AVAILABLE**

- E.C.G.
- Lung Function

#### **Dr A. Wannenburg**

591 Berea Rd  
Berea  
Tel: 031 – 2093632

- E.C.G
- Lung Function
- Audiogram
- Eye Test

#### **Dr R. Foster**

Old Main Rd/ Meller Rd  
New Germany  
031 -7093070

- E.C.G
- Lung Function
- Audiogram
- Chest X-rays

