



Higher and Higher

Some UNL students have found a way to cut down on vacation travel time and still save money.

If you are a member of the University Flying Club (UFC) and a licensed pilot, it takes about one-third the time to travel somewhere by plane as by automobile, Mike Larson, UFC president said.

He added that it costs about the same to fly as it does to drive, because many planes travel 16 or 17 miles on a gallon of gasoline.

On the other hand, if you don't have a license, the club offers a special rate for persons who want to earn their pilot's license, Larson said. It costs about \$750, including membership fees, to earn a license through the UFC and more than \$800 most other places, he said.

Flight time

A person needs 40 hours of flight time to earn his license. It costs \$15 per hour to rent one of the club's five planes compared to about \$12 an hour renting a comparable airplane from an aviation operation, Larson said.

UFC is a nonprofit organization. Members pay an initial fee of \$50 and no monthly dues are collected after the initial dues are paid.

UFC members were worried

last winter during the energy crisis about spiraling fuel rates, Larson said.

"It was proposed last winter to allocate proportionally less fuel to the aviation industry, compared to other industries, but by spring allocations were equitable for all industries, including aviation," Larson said. "After restrictions were lifted, people realized flying costs were in line with the costs of car travel."

Not social club

Larson explained that UFC is not a social club. At their monthly meetings, members hear lectures from guest speakers about innovations in aviation and about air safety, Larson said.

There are about 900 members, who are not strictly students, Larson said.

"We haven't worked closely with UNL's Student Activities Office because many of our members are UNL faculty, former students and UNL employees," Larson said. "We hope to work more closely with that office in the future."

Larson works as an aviation services representative for the State Department of Aeronautics. He said he joined UFC while taking graduate courses at UNL.

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