

# Intensive flight training course sees first graduate

LOCK HAVEN - Jason Brown, 43, of McElhattan became the first graduate of the new "Three Weeks, Rain or Shine" intensive flight training course at AvSport, the sport aviation training center recently established at Piper Memorial Airport.

Prof. H. Paul Shuch, AvSport's chief flight instructor, and adjunct flight instructor John Spencer watched Brown safely and single-handedly maneuver the school's Light Sport trainer aircraft around the Lock Haven traffic pattern June 4, at the conclusion of his 10th flight lesson. This milestone brings Brown one step closer to becoming a fully licensed sport pilot.

Upon completion of the solo flight, Spencer cut off the tail of Brown's shirt and Shuch autographed it to mark the occasion. The ritual dates back to the "golden age of aviation," when barnstormers frequently had to patch rips in their fabric-covered aircraft with pieces of their own garments.

The Sport Pilot license is the newest portal of entry into the world of aviation, allowing prospective pilots to become licensed in half the time, and at half the cost, of the traditional private pilot license. Sport pilots fly

for fun, and are restricted to flying simple, low performance aircraft that comply with the Light Sport Aircraft rule. They are allowed to fly in uncongested airspace, during daylight hours, and only in good weather conditions.

The school's pre-solo training module brings students from zero flight time to being fully qualified to safely fly a sport plane in the local traffic pattern as its sole occupant.

Continuing on to the school's "Three More Weeks of Heaven" advanced intensive course, Brown will next embark on cross-country flight training, leading up to his venturing farther afield on his own. His studies will culminate in preparations for the Federal Aviation Administration practical test, consisting of both oral exams and a check ride with an FAA designated pilot examiner, before receiving his pilot's license.

Training for the Sport Pilot license can run anywhere from six to 12 weeks, at a total cost of around \$4,000, Shuch said.

For more information on sport flying, check the school's website: AvSport.org or call 748-3725,



PHOTO PROVIDED  
Adjunct flight instructor John Spencer cuts the tail off student Jason Brown's shirt, a ritual commemorating Brown's first solo flight, at AvSport of Lock Haven.