



PHOTO PROVIDED

Flight instructor John Spencer shows off his personal aircraft, a classic 1959 Piper Comanche originally manufactured at Piper Aircraft Corp., Lock Haven, and now hangared at Piper Airport.

Flight school adds adjunct instructor

LOCK HAVEN — AvSport of Lock Haven, the sport aviation training center established this year at Piper Memorial Airport, has hired its second flight instructor.

Lock Haven native John Spencer has just completed transition training with Prof. H. Paul Shuch, AvSport's chief flight instructor, and is now ready to begin training students in the school's Light Sport Aircraft.

The son of a retired airline captain and a former flight attendant, Spencer grew up in a prominent local aviation family. He and his relatives have been actively involved in the Sentimental Journey to Cub Haven Fly-In at Piper Airport since its inception 25 years ago. Next month at Sentimental Journey, he will be offering Discovery Flights to prospective Sport Pilots.

"This is a new kind of flying for

me," he said. "I am excited about this opportunity to contribute to the future of General Aviation, by training new Sport Pilots in AvSport's plane, using Dr. Shuch's unique curriculum. I look forward to learning as much about teaching as my students will learn about flying."

Since he started flying in 1999, Spencer has earned a commercial pilot's license with instrument and multi-engine ratings. He has been a certified flight instructor since 2003, having accumulated more than 700 hours of flight experience. AvSport's chief flight instructor personally checked him out in the school's plane, and administered his periodic Flight Review, as well as providing additional security awareness training as required by the TSA.

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 rule. They are allowed to fly in uncongested airspace, during daylight hours, and only in good weather conditions. Training for the sport pilot license typically takes about three months, at a total cost of around \$4,000, says Shuch.

Piper Memorial Airport is the ancestral home to the legendary Piper Cub, arguably the world's first sport plane. Modern Light Sport aircraft allow pilots to recapture the bygone fly-for-fun Cub era, with increased reliability and improved safety.