



**PIPER MEMORIAL AIRPORT
353 PROCTOR STREET
LOCK HAVEN PA 17745**

For Immediate Release:

Grocer Conquers the Skies

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Lock Haven, PA, 14 October 2019 – AvSport of Lock Haven, the sport aviation school on the Piper Memorial Airport, is pleased to announce that yet another of its primary students has just achieved his first solo flight. Jacob Jones, 23, a grocery store Assistant Department Manager in State College PA, today demonstrated his competence to safely fly an aircraft as its sole occupant.

Originally from Baltimore, Jones took his first flight lesson on July first at AvSport, the sport flying school on Lock Haven's Piper Memorial Airport, with AvSport founder Prof. H. Paul Shuch. Upon completion of this successful first solo flight, Shuch cut the back off of Jones' t-shirt, and autographed it to mark the occasion. This 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. Jacob's shirt is now displayed on the wall of the AvSport office, proudly joining 21 others representing the students who have achieved this same milestone since the flight school was founded in December of 2009.

"This was a very challenging experience," says Jones. "Having completed my first solo flight, the feeling of freedom is indescribable. I intend to finish my pilot's license here at Lock Haven, and will take it one step at a time."

"Jacob's next step," says Prof. Shuch, "will be advanced training, leading to his experiencing cross-country flight, and ultimately preparing him for his FAA Sport Pilot checkride." The Sport Pilot license, in which AvSport specializes, 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 solely for pleasure, in fair weather, during daylight hours, in simple, low-performance Light Sport aircraft. 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. Anyone interested in learning more about sport flying is invited to browse the school's extensive website at <http://AvSport.org>, where a wealth of free training materials awaits.

DOWNLOADABLE PHOTO: <http://www.avsport.org/photos/solo/jacob.jpg>

CAPTION: AvSport Chief Flight Instructor Dr. H. Paul Shuch performs a ritual that dates back to the Golden Age of Aviation, by cutting off the back of Jacob Jones' shirt following the latter's first successful solo flight. That piece of fabric was signed by Shuch, and now adorns AvSport's office wall, along with shirts of 21 other successful solo pilots trained at AvSport of Lock Haven.

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