



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

For Immediate Release:

Computer Systems Engineer Flies Solo

**For more information, contact Prof. H. Paul Shuch, Chief Flight Instructor
Fax (570) 748-3725, Cell (570) 419-1229, email fly@AvSport.org**

Lock Haven, PA, 12 November 2023 – Ken Miller, a Computer Systems Engineer from Mill Hall PA, today achieved the significant milestone of flying an aircraft as its sole occupant.

“At Christmas, I received a gift certificate from my wife for an introductory flight,” says Miller, who provides performance engineering consultation to scientists on the international computer network of the US Department of Energy. “I hadn’t had this much fun since roadracing motorcycles.” Enjoying that experience, he signed up for flight lessons with Prof. H. Paul Shuch, founder and chief instructor of AvSport LLC, the Sport Flying school on the Piper Memorial Airport, where Miller applied all his engineering skills to mastering the sky.

“I took two lessons most weeks,” recalls Miller, “practicing and working through procedures for months. Then, after one particular trip around the traffic pattern, I heard Dr. Shuch ask, ‘do you feel ready to try this by yourself?’ I didn’t, but by the next day, I was anxious to demonstrate what he had taught me.” Ken flew solo several times around the Lock Haven traffic pattern, performing takeoffs, landings, and go-arounds. Then, the winds shifted, and he had to reverse direction in the pattern. “I extended my downwind for 27R,” he reports in proper aviation jargon, “and instead of turning right base, I rolled left for a 180. During this slow turn, it suddenly hit me: ‘I’m flying. I’M FLYING! ON MY OWN!!!”

This winter, Miller will take a short break from flying for home study, in preparation for taking the FAA Sport Pilot Knowledge Test. In the Spring, he will continue on to advanced flight training, which will take him from what Prof. Shuch calls an “airplane driver,” all the way to a licensed Sport Pilot.

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://avsport.org/photos/solo/Ken.jpg>

CAPTION: While the whole family watches, Ken Miller’s wife Deb performs the ritual of trimming his shirttail following a successful solo flight. This tradition is as old as aviation, harkening back to the days when fledgling aviators often had to patch holes in their fabric covered aircraft with pieces of their own garments.

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