



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

For Immediate Release:

Computer Engineer Completes First Solo Flight

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Lock Haven, PA, 16 April 2024 – Sarah Frear, a Computer Engineer from Ohio, today achieved the significant milestone of flying an aircraft as its sole occupant. She had started her flight training last summer at AvSport LLC, the flight school on the Piper Memorial Airport, Lock Haven PA, after receiving an Introductory Lesson gift certificate from her husband. “Enduring a winter interruption caused by inclement weather,” notes AvSport founder and chief flight instructor Prof. H. Paul Shuch, “Sarah resumed her flight training this Spring, and very quickly honed her skills to the point of being ready for flight as the sole occupant of an aircraft.”

“All my training came together in a beautiful first solo flight,” reports Sarah. “After the steep learning curve that I encountered during the first lessons, I did not have doubts at any point in the flight about what would come next or how I would handle it. I experienced several setbacks due to weather, but it was well worth sticking with it to experience the freedom of flight and the satisfaction of gently setting the plane down on the runway.”

An eager student and fast learner, Sarah had already passed her FAA Sport Pilot written examination prior to her solo flight. She will now continue on to advanced flight training, which will take her from what Prof. Shuch calls an “airplane driver,” all the way to being a fully qualified and 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/sarah.jpg>

CAPTION: Justin Frear performs the ritual of trimming his wife Sarah’s shirttail following her successful first 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.