

Business

> [News](#) > [Business](#)

[Print this Page](#)

[<-back to story](#)

New flight school launches its first student

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LOCK HAVEN - The new flight school recently established at the Piper Memorial Airport offered a free public Sport Pilot seminar, and immediately afterward, conducted its first introductory lesson. Matthew Hoppes, 29, of Roaring Branch, Pa., the first student for recently formed AvSport of Lock Haven, completed one hour of ground instruction and one hour of flight instruction, starting him down the path toward earning his wings.

AvSport founder and Chief Flight Instructor Dr. H. Paul Shuch conducted a two-hour seminar at the airport, explaining the rules, requirements and restrictions of the recently implemented FAA Sport Pilot license. Attended by 47 people, the seminar showcased the school's recently purchased Evektor SportStar which, just the day before, Shuch had flown to its new home in Lock Haven. He had gone to Long Island earlier in the week to complete three days of training in the Light Sport aircraft, and explained to the crowd that "no matter how many thousands of hours of flight experience you may have, when you acquire a new airplane, you get to be a student pilot all over again." With nine hours of experience flying the plane, Shuch explained, "I'm finally starting to feel like a flight instructor again."

In the seminar, Shuch outlined a new flight training program which he calls "Three Weeks, Rain or Shine." Students willing to commit to three intensive flight lessons a week for just three weeks (along with rigorous homework assignments between lessons) can expect to complete the course by performing their first solo flight. Lessons cannot be canceled, rescheduled or refunded. "Students are making a major commitment," notes Shuch, "but then, so am I. During the three week term, I will take on only four students, thus assuring that each will get all the personal attention he or she needs to succeed."

Article Photos



PHOTO PROVIDED
Matt Hoppes completes his first flight lesson with AvSport at Piper Memorial Airport, Lock Haven.

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