

**The Express, Lock Haven, PA**

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# Lock Haven shop named Rotax Independent Repair Centre

LOCK HAVEN - Rotax GmbH, manufacturers of quality aircraft engines for the Light Sport Aviation industry, has named AvSport of Lock Haven, a small business on the Piper Memorial Airport, as its regional Independent Repair Centre for Western PA.

Based in Wels, Austria, Rotax is a division of Canadian aerospace conglomerate Bombardier. The company began producing its 912 line of four cycle, four cylinder opposed aircraft engines 25 years ago. Over 50,000 units now in service have accumulated more than forty million hours of flight experience.

Currently, this engine powers 85 percent of the world's Light Sport aircraft fleet, and is gaining increasing popularity on this side of the Atlantic. But, factory trained and qualified Rotax technicians remain few and far between. Thus, the company decided to establish a network of authorized Independent Repair Centres across the US.

"Textron-Lycoming, a long-established aircraft engine manufacturer in Williamsport, was partly responsible for my move to this area in 1990," said Prof. H. Paul Shuch, AvSport's founder, chief flight instructor, and director of maintenance. "I had thirty years of experience working with their fine products before I acquired my first Rotax-powered aircraft. The Rotax engine employs newer technology and a different design philosophy, serving a different market than Lycoming's.

"After taking extensive Rotax factory training to learn this engine's quirks, I came to realize that it's an emerging product that few aviation maintenance technicians understand," he said. "Thus, I recognized an unusual business opportunity, and sought to become recognized as the region's Rotax guru. Now, all that training has been rewarded."

AvSport was founded as a Sport Aviation flight school and maintenance shop in January 2010 by Dr. Shuch, an Air Force veteran and retired aeronautical engineering professor who started flying in 1961, and has been a flight instructor for more than thirty years.

"I chose to base my business in Lock Haven because of the city's proud aviation tradition, the area's scenic terrain, and the community's enthusiastic support of sport flying," Shuch said.

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