



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

For Immediate Release:

Intensive Flight Training Course Sees First Graduate

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Lock Haven, PA, 4 June 2010 – Jason Brown, 43, of McElhattan PA, this morning became the first graduate of the new “Three Weeks, Rain or Shine” intensive flight training course at AvSport of Lock Haven, the sport aviation training center recently established at Piper Memorial Airport. Prof. H. Paul Shuch, AvSport’s chief flight instructor, and adjunct flight instructor John Spencer watched Brown safely and single-handedly maneuver the school’s Light Sport trainer aircraft around the Lock Haven traffic pattern, at the conclusion of his tenth flight lesson. This important milestone brings Brown one step closer to becoming a fully licensed Sport Pilot.

Upon completion of the solo flight, Spencer cut off the tail of Brown’s shirt, and Shuch 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.

The Sport Pilot license 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 for fun, and are restricted to flying simple, low performance aircraft that comply with the Light Sport Aircraft rule. They are allowed to fly in uncongested airspace, during daylight hours, and only in good weather conditions. The weather for today’s solo flight was perfect, with clear skies, calm winds, and unrestricted visibility.

The school’s pre-solo training module brings students from zero flight time, to being fully qualified to safely fly a sport plane in the local traffic pattern as its sole occupant. Continuing on to the school’s “Three More Weeks of Heaven” advanced intensive course, Brown will next embark on cross-country flight training, leading up to his venturing farther afield on his own. His studies will culminate in preparations for the Federal Aviation Administration practical test, consisting of both oral exams and a checkride with an FAA designated pilot examiner, prior to receipt of his pilot’s license. Training for the Sport Pilot license can run anywhere from six to twelve weeks, at a total cost of around \$4000, says Shuch.

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. Persons interested in sport flying should check the school’s website, AvSport.org, or call (570) 748-3725, for more information.

DOWNLOADABLE PHOTO: http://avsport.org/photos/students/Jason_solo.jpg

CAPTION: Adjunct flight instructor John Spencer cuts the tail off of student Jason Brown’s shirt, in a ritual commemorating his first solo flight at AvSport of Lock Haven.