



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

For Immediate Release:

Local Flight School Graduates First Pilot

**For more information, contact Prof. H. Paul Shuch, Chief Flight Instructor
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Lock Haven, PA, 29 June 2010 – AvSport of Lock Haven, the sport aviation training center established earlier this year at the Piper Memorial Airport, is pleased to announce its first fully licensed graduate. Mel Bole, 69, a retired minister from Cogan Station PA, today completed his FAA Practical Test, flying with Designated Pilot Examiner Art Tarola of Allentown PA, officially becoming a federally licensed Sport Pilot. The practical test consists of both oral and flight examinations, to ensure that the pilot complies with the Federal Aviation Administration practical test standards, and is administered only after students have completed a minimum of 20 hours of flight training, and passed an FAA written examination.

“Mel was the first AvSport student pilot to fly solo,” notes Prof. H. Paul Shuch, the flight school’s founder and Chief Instructor, “and now becomes our first fully qualified Sport Pilot graduate. His months of effort and dedication have earned him this coveted ‘license to learn’.”

“I’ve worked so hard, for so long,” stated Mel upon completion of his checkride, “that passing my practical test was a tremendous release. I didn’t realize what an emotional experience this would be; it brought tears to my eyes.”

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 rule. They are allowed to fly in uncongested airspace, during daylight hours, and only in good weather conditions, carrying not more than one passenger.

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.

DOWNLOADABLE PHOTOS:

Student pilot Mel Bole (right) and Designated Pilot Examiner Art Tarola head out for a checkride in the Evektor SportStar primary trainer, at AvSport of Lock Haven.

<http://avsport.org/photos/students/Mel+Art.jpg>

Designated Pilot Examiner Art Tarola (left) hands Mel Bole his newly earned Sport Pilot License, at AvSport of Lock Haven.

<http://avsport.org/photos/students/Mel+Art2.jpg>