



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

For Immediate Release:

Local Pilot Averts Disaster on Rural Road

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Lock Haven PA, 1 April 2011: A local pilot narrowly escaped with his life enroute to the Piper Memorial Airport today, when the Honda Civic he was driving experienced a Check Engine light along a back country road. Andrew McKeith of Williamsport had no choice but to pull over to the side of the road and call AAA. He was forced to endure sweltering heat while waiting nearly 45 minutes for roadside assistance to arrive.

The responding tow-truck driver, who asked not to be identified, revealed that the driver was only a Sport Pilot, and had never flown for a major airline. "If that car had continued running for just another couple of miles," he observed, "the victim might actually have made it to the airport." Further investigation revealed that McKeith had failed to file a flight plan.

"This was my most harrowing experience in nearly 30 years of driving," admitted McKeith following the dramatic rescue. "I'm only glad I had no passengers aboard. I was getting hungry and, if AAA had taken much longer to respond, I hate to contemplate the kinds of atrocities to which I might have been driven."

"I'm actually very proud of McKeith," said his flight instructor, Prof. H. S. Paul. "I tell all my students that, if that orange light comes on, their best course of action is not to continue driving, but rather to pull over and park. But, in the pressure of the moment, it's hard to say what a given pilot will do. This is what we trained for, and Andrew executed the maneuver flawlessly."

"I've been warning people about this for years," said local resident K. R. Mudgeon, who observed the whole incident from his front porch. "They should never have allowed that road to be built to the airport. If the State refuses to shut down the road, I'm going to have to move before something even worse occurs."

In Washington, a spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board confirmed that far more accidents occur to pilots enroute to the airport than to those flying airplanes.

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This spoof Press Release is brought to you on April First by AvSport of Lock Haven, the Sport Pilot training center on the Piper Memorial Airport.