



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

For Immediate Release:

Flight School Revamps Training Curriculum

**For more information, contact Prof. H. Paul Shuch, Chief Flight Instructor
Office (570) 748-3725, Cell (570) 419-1229, email fly@AvSport.org**

Lock Haven, PA, 1 December 2011 – Drawing on its two years of success, AvSport of Lock Haven, the Sport Pilot flight school established on the Piper Memorial Airport, is in the process of realigning its training curriculum to better reflect student needs. Beginning in January, the intensity of its popular three-week accelerated training courses, involving three flight lessons per week, will be scaled back somewhat, to a more relaxed two flights a week over a five week period.

It is difficult to put a firm schedule or price on obtaining a pilot's license, maintains Prof. H. Paul Shuch, the flight school's founder and Chief Flight Instructor, since each student's training experience is highly individualized. "The FAA has established minimum required training hours," he observes, "along with minimum performance standards. But AvSport trains to neither. It is our goal to maximize pilot skills and safety, and our students realize this cannot, and should not, be done by cutting corners in the interest of economy." AvSport has always told its students to expect to spend about \$5,000 becoming a licensed Sport Pilot. That figure has not changed, but is merely being reflected in new package prices and lesson scheduling.

Early in 2011, escalating energy costs forced AvSport to institute a fuel surcharge. Effective at the beginning of 2012, those costs, along with sales taxes and associated fees, will be included in all advertised course prices, rather than being billed separately. "Hidden costs benefit nobody," insists Shuch. The school's published curricula, and estimates of total training costs to obtain a pilot's license, are being adjusted upward about ten percent, to bring them into alignment with the actual experience of its graduates to date. "While the most visible part of these changes is economically driven," Shuch notes, "our intent is to generate more realistic student expectations, rather than increasing revenues."

"We've had two years now to observe the areas which seem to presenting our students with the most difficulty," Shuch continues, "and are attempting to remediate them. The result will be to maximize student enjoyment and pilot competence, at perhaps a modest increase in cost. An affordable flying experience is thus maintained without sacrificing safety."

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 PHOTO: <http://www.avsport.org/photos/events/hangar1110.jpg>

CAPTION: AvSport students, instructors, and graduates congregate at Piper Memorial Airport for one of its recent Hangar Flying Sessions, a monthly social and educational gathering that lends the flight school the ambiance and flavor of an old-time flying club.