



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

For Immediate Release:

State Trooper Earns Ticket

**For more information, contact Prof. H. Paul Shuch, Chief Flight Instructor
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Lock Haven, PA, 7 August 2012 – Just three and a half months after commencing flight training on the Piper Memorial Airport, John Knepp has earned his Sport Pilot license at AvSport of Lock Haven. Knepp, 30, a Pennsylvania State Trooper residing in Jersey Shore, completed an FAA practical test with Designated Pilot Examiner Art Tarola, briefly becoming the world's newest licensed pilot.

Knepp trained with Prof. H. Paul Shuch, founder and Chief Flight Instructor at AvSport, a flight school established in Lock Haven three years ago, after Shuch's retirement from a long and distinguished academic career. "John had actually commenced flight training a decade earlier," notes Shuch, "before life intervened and he had to put his dreams of flight on hold. His prior training proved both an asset and a liability. John had a solid foundation on which to build, but ten years of accumulated rust to chip away. We had to go back to square one, but his added maturity and perspective made him a much more focused student than I imagine he was the first time around."

Though now having earned his ticket to fly, Knepp definitely plans to continue his training, working first for the more advanced Private Pilot license, and then ultimately for a Commercial Pilot license with Instrument rating. His long-term goals, in addition to family travel, include service as an aviation missionary.

The Sport Pilot license, in which AvSport specializes, 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 solely for pleasure, in fair weather, during daylight hours, in simple, low-performance Light Sport aircraft. 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. Anyone interested in learning more about sport flying is invited to browse the school's extensive website at <http://AvSport.org>, where a wealth of free training materials awaits.

DOWNLOADABLE PHOTO: <http://www.avsport.org/photos/graduates/John+Art.jpg>

CAPTION: Designated Pilot Examiner Art Tarola (left) quizzes John Knepp on airspace restrictions, during Knepp's FAA Sport Pilot Practical Examination at AvSport of Lock Haven on the Piper Memorial Airport.

DOWNLOADABLE PHOTO: <http://www.avsport.org/photos/graduates/John+Art2.jpg>

CAPTION: After a successful checkride at AvSport of Lock Haven, Art Tarola (left) hands John Knepp his Sport Pilot ticket.