



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

For Immediate Release:

Pittsburgh Mechanic Earns Pilot's License in Lock Haven
For more information, contact Prof. H. Paul Shuch, Chief Flight Instructor
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Lock Haven, PA, 4 November 2012 – Last summer, David Braxton showed up at AvSport of Lock Haven, the Sport Pilot flight school on the Piper Memorial Airport, with the dream of becoming a licensed pilot. Unfortunately, living in Pittsburgh made for a rather inconvenient commute. The 49 year old Air Force veteran made the commitment to spend one or two weekends per month in Lock Haven, pursuing flight training. His goal was to earn a pilot's license before he turned fifty.

Braxton didn't quite make that goal. Job obligations made it difficult for him to drive to Lock Haven quite as often as he had hoped, and when he did make the trip, adverse weather didn't always permit him to get in the flight training he had bargained for. Nevertheless, the trained aircraft mechanic persevered. Fifteen months after taking his first lesson, and four months past his fiftieth birthday, Braxton passed his FAA checkride and earned his Sport Pilot license.

“David showed extraordinary dedication, in the face of considerable obstacles,” said H. Paul Shuch, AvSport's founder and chief flight instructor. “Although many of our local students have been able to complete their pilot training in just a few months, David had to drive four to five hours each way for every lesson, significantly delaying his completion. Nevertheless, he decided up front that he was in this for the long haul. With just over 4,000 licensed Sport Pilots in the US, he joins an elite corps of pleasure fliers who are able to see the world from a new perspective. David can be justly proud of what he has accomplished.”

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. 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. Aspiring Sport Pilots are invited to browse AvSport's extensive website, <http://AvSport.org>, for a wealth of free training material.

DOWNLOADABLE PHOTO:

http://www.avsport.org/photos/graduates/David_checkride.jpg

CAPTION:

Designated pilot examiner John Smith hands David Braxton his Sport Pilot license, following a successful FAA checkride.