



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

For Immediate Release:

Local Sport Pilot Upgrades to Private

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Lock Haven PA, 31 August 2013: Two and a half years after becoming a licensed Sport Pilot, Keith McAndrew has successfully upgraded his license, having today passed his FAA Private Pilot Practical Test with Designated Pilot Examiner Todd Aungst, at Selingsgrove's Penn Valley Airport.

McAndrew, a Williamsport truck driver originally from Canada, began his flight training in August 2010 at AvSport of Lock Haven on the Piper Memorial Airport. He earned his Sport Pilot wings six months later, and has since been flying for pleasure while continuing his flight training. The additional skills and experience he gained in earning his Private Pilot certificate enable him to fly larger, faster airplanes to thousands of additional airports worldwide. McAndrew now looks forward to flying his family on vacation trips, as well as continuing to fly to nearby airports in pursuit of the ultimate Hundred Dollar Hamburger.

"When Keith started his training," notes Prof. H. Paul Shuch, AvSport's founder and Chief Flight Instructor, "the new Sport Pilot license was still becoming established as a viable entry point for those aspiring to earn higher ratings and privileges. Because of the experience he gained through sport flying, Keith very quickly acquired the skills necessary to master more complex and capable aircraft, and to fly in more challenging environments."

McAndrew becomes the second Sport Pilot from the local flight school to continue on to earn his Private rating. Earlier this year John Knepp, a PA State Trooper from Jersey Shore who had earned his wings at AvSport the previous August, flew a successful Private Pilot checkride, also with examiner Aungst. "When I founded AvSport, I was hopeful that the Sport Pilot ticket would feed the pipeline for higher ratings," says Shuch. "Keith and John have validated the building-block approach I have attempted to institute for pilot training. I hope others will follow their fine example."

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. All Sport Pilot training received at AvSport satisfies Private Pilot requirements, should graduates choose to upgrade. Lock Haven is the birthplace of the legendary Piper Cub, considered by many to be the very first sport aircraft. 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://AvSport.org/photos/graduates/Keith_private.jpg

CAPTION: AvSport of Lock Haven pilot Keith McAndrew (right) receives his new Private Pilot certificate from Designated Pilot Examiner Todd Aungst, after completing a successful checkride at Penn Valley Airport, Selingsgrove PA.

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