



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

For Immediate Release:

LHU Professor Flies Solo

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Lock Haven, PA, 19 May 2014 – Robert Everett, an Economics professor at Lock Haven University, has completed his first solo flight at the historic Piper Memorial Airport, marking a significant milestone on the road to becoming a licensed pilot. Encouraged and motivated by his friend and colleague Ed Chatterton, a private pilot and retired professor from the same department at LHU, Everett began his flight instruction just two months ago at AvSport of Lock Haven, the sport aviation flight school on the local airport.

Bob has been taking instruction once or twice a week from H. Paul Shuch, founder of Lock Haven's flight school, who is himself a retired professor. "I love teaching fellow educators," says Shuch, "because they understand the academic process, and will go the extra mile to ensure their success." Everett would have made even more rapid progress, notes Shuch, had it not been for spring rains forcing the cancellation of the occasional lesson.

Upon completion of the solo flight, Dr. Shuch cut the tail off of Dr. Everett's t-shirt, and autographed it to mark the occasion. This ritual dates back to the Golden Age of aviation, when barnstormers frequently had to patch rips in their fabric-covered aircraft with pieces of their own garments. Bob's shirttail now graces the wall of the AvSport office, proudly joining ten other shirts representing the students who have achieved this same milestone since the flight school was established in January of 2010.

Over the next week or two, Everett will be preparing to sit for his required FAA written examination, before resuming his flying lessons. During the post-solo training to follow, he will be receiving additional instruction, allowing him to advance beyond what Shuch calls an "airplane driver," to become a safe and competent Pilot in Command.

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. 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/solo/Bob_shirt.jpg

CAPTION: Flight instructor Prof. H. Paul Shuch cuts the tail off Bob Everett's shirt, in an ancient ceremony marking the local professor's first solo flight at AvSport of Lock Haven on the Piper Memorial Airport.