



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

For Immediate Release:

From Student to Pilot to Aircraft Owner

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Lock Haven, PA, 17 June 2015 – When John Prasko began flying just over one year ago at AvSport of Lock Haven, the Sport Aviation school on the Piper Memorial Airport, his two goals were to become a licensed pilot, and to one day own his own plane. Prasko, 65, achieved his first objective on Saturday, June 13th 2015, and is rapidly closing in on the second. A mere two days after passing his Sport Pilot flight test, the heating and air conditioning contractor from Hastings PA entered into a verbal contract with the flight school, to acquire the very aircraft in which he had just earned his license.

Since late last May, Prasko had been receiving flight instruction in a 2006 Evektor SportStar, an all-metal Light Sport trainer built in the Czech Republic by what Chief Flight Instructor H. Paul Shuch calls "meticulous Eastern European craftsmen." The SportStar was a far cry from the 1946 wood and fabric airplane in which Prasko had started learning to fly a few years earlier, and as he gained experience with the more modern design, he decided a similar plane would fit his mission well. Wanting to provide his students with the newest and greatest equipment in which to train, Shuch had already begun negotiating with Evektor's US distributor to trade in his well-used trainer on a newer model. Prasko offered to acquire the flight school's gently flown and well maintained aircraft at its trade-in value. Shuch was pleased to oblige him, and the transaction should be completed upon delivery of the flight school's new plane in early July.

AvSport was founded in January 2010 by Dr. Shuch, an Air Force veteran and retired aeronautical engineering professor who started flying in 1961, and has been a flight instructor for more than thirty years. "I chose to start my flight school at Lock Haven," he explains, "because of the city's proud aviation tradition, the area's scenic terrain, and the community's enthusiastic support of sport aviation."

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/graduates/Prasko.jpg>

CAPTION: FAA Designated Pilot Examiner Art Tarola (left) congratulates an exhausted but elated John Prasko upon successful completion of his Sport Pilot Practical Test. Prasko is now a licensed pilot, soon to become the proud new owner of the aircraft seen behind him, in which he trained.

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