



For Immediate Release:

One If By Air, Two If By Sea

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Lock Haven, PA, 3 February 2016 – H. Paul Shuch, chief flight instructor at AvSport of Lock Haven, the Sport Pilot flight school on the Piper Memorial Airport, has just added a Seaplane pilot rating to his already impressive list of credentials, and is contemplating bringing seaplane flight training back to the Susquehanna River. In late January, Shuch received seaplane instruction at Jack Brown's Seaplane Base in (where else?) Winter Haven FL, flying (what else?) a Piper J-3 Cub on floats.

"Anyone who's flown out of our own Piper Memorial Airport is likely familiar with the ubiquitous yellow Cub," notes Prof. Shuch, who founded the local flight school in 2009 after retiring from a distinguished academic career. "The seaplane version flies just like a standard Cub, although the drag of the floats makes it cruise noticeably slower. It is on the water, however, that the Cub becomes a completely different fish -- er, bird."

Adding a seaplane rating to an existing pilot's license typically requires two to three days of intensive training, although one day of rainy weather increased Shuch's training time to four days. "Like many local snow birds, I spend much of every January in Florida," says Shuch. "This year, I decided to pay a visit to the talented folks at Brown's, and proceeded to check off a bucket list item. The non-trivial experience made me appreciate the efforts and accomplishments of my own flight students, and I would recommend it to any pilot in search of new challenges."

Shuch is now investigating the possibility of adding seaplane training to his own curriculum, though he first needs to research the safety and regulatory implications of flying off the Susquehanna River adjacent to the airport. "It's been done in the past," he observes, "though in recent decades the airspace and environmental management issues have become more complicated. Right now, I'm just testing the waters, so to speak. If it seems feasible, and local demand exists, AvSport could be cranking out qualified seaplane pilots in a year or two."

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, or to visit the flight school's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/sportflying. For more information, email fly@avspor.org, or call Prof. H. Paul Shuch, AvSport's Chief Flight Instructor, at (570) 748-3725.

DOWNLOADABLE PHOTO: http://www.avsport.org/photos/acft/cub_floats.jpg

CAPTION: AvSport chief flight instructor Prof. H. Paul Shuch (right) received his seaplane rating in this Piper Cub floatplane, built on the Piper Memorial Airport some 70 years ago, the same year in which Shuch was born.

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