



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

For Immediate Release:

## **Retiree Checks Off Solo Flight Box on Bucket List**

**For more information, contact Prof. H. Paul Shuch, Chief Flight Instructor  
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**Lock Haven, PA, 12 August 2016** – As a youngster, David Mauck always knew he wanted to fly. The nephew of the late Melvin A. "Midge" Bartholomew, Lock Haven's longtime airport manager, used to hang around Piper Memorial Airport watching planes. But he had to wait until his own retirement before he could check solo flight off his bucket list. This past March, the day after retiring from Pennsylvania College of Technology, the former campus police officer began his flight training at AvSport of Lock Haven, the local sport aviation flight school. Four months later, he was ready to fly by himself.

Upon completion of a successful first solo flight on August 12th, Dr. Shuch cut the tail off of Mauck'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. Dave's shirttail is now displayed on the wall of the AvSport office, proudly joining more than a dozen 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, Mauck 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 in short and soft field operations, navigation, weather analysis and forecasting, and cross-country flight planning and execution, 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/mauck\\_shirt.jpg](http://www.avsport.org/photos/solo/mauck_shirt.jpg)

CAPTION:

Flight instructor Prof. H. Paul Shuch cuts the tail off David Mauck's shirt, in an ancient ceremony, marking the recent retiree's first solo flight at AvSport of Lock Haven on the Piper Memorial Airport.