



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

For Immediate Release:

PA State Trooper Uses Drones In The Line Of Duty

**For more information, contact Prof. H. Paul Shuch, Chief Flight Instructor
Office (570) 748-3725, Cell (570) 419-1229, email fly@AvSport.org**

Lock Haven, PA, 15 October 2016 – When the Federal Aviation Administration implemented rules for licensing of Unmanned Aircraft System (drone) pilots just six weeks ago, various industries envisioned numerous commercial applications for these small, versatile, and inexpensive camera platforms. Few envisioned the potential of drones in law enforcement and public safety, but Steven Schmit seized the opportunity. The Pennsylvania State Trooper, who specializes in accident investigation and reconstruction, enrolled in the country's first Remote Pilot course at AvSport of Lock Haven on the Piper Memorial Airport, and became one of the first wave of licensed commercial drone operators.

Although he lacked any formal prior aviation training or experience, Schmit applied himself in three days of rigorous classroom and flight-line training, followed by a week of intensive self-study, using materials provided in the AvSport Remote Pilot course. Shortly thereafter, he became one of the first candidates to pass the new FAA Remote Pilot knowledge test, with an impressive score of 92 percent.

"Steve has an intuitive grasp of aircraft operations," notes Prof. H. Paul Shuch, AvSport's founder and chief flight instructor. "In class, he had to drink from the fire hose, and come up to speed on topics as diverse as aerodynamics, drone maintenance, weight and balance, weather analysis, airspace, FAA regulations, and crew resource management. I taught him what I could, but Steve had to pull the lion's share of the load. I am extremely proud of him."

AvSport's drone pilot training class was announced weeks before the FAA rules even became effective, and was fully enrolled within a matter of hours. Early on the morning the Remote Pilot license became available, Prof. Shuch became the first person in the country to earn one. His next three courses are scheduled to begin on 25 October, 15 November, and 6 December 2016, respectively, and are still accepting reservations. AvSport offers potential commercial drone operators an invitation to get involved on the ground floor of what promises to be aviation's next Great Frontier.

For further information, browse to www.drone-training.org, or visit the school on social media at [facebook.com/DroneTrainingOrg](https://www.facebook.com/DroneTrainingOrg).

DOWNLOADABLE PHOTO: <http://AvSport.org/photos/UAS/schmit.jpg>

CAPTION: In this drone's-eye view, PA State Trooper Steven Schmit operates AvSport's training drone under the supervision of chief flight instructor Prof. H. Paul Shuch, while his classmates look on and learn.

- 30 -