

FAA salutes man's devotion to safety

In a surprise presentation at the Sentimental Journey fly-in Wednesday, Piper Memorial Airport's resident flight instructor was presented with an Aviation Safety Award from the Federal Aviation Administration.

According to a news release, H. Paul Shuch, who in 2010 founded AvSport of Lock Haven, a sport aviation training center, said he was pleased to see his colleague Kathleen Martin of the FAA Harrisburg Flight Standards District Office, in the audience at one of his fly-in seminars. He didn't find anything unusual about her request to address the pilots and mechanics in attendance, since as the



PHOTO PROVIDED

The FAA's Kathleen Martin presents Lock Haven flight instructor H. Paul Shuch with an award.

local FAA Safety Team program manager, she often avails herself of such opportunities to pro-

mote aviation safety.

Shuch was surprised, however, when Martin began to recite his profes-

sional background, emphasizing his 30 years of experience as a flight instructor, and more than 25 years as an FAA safety volunteer.

After summarizing Shuch's accomplishments, Martin presented the retired aerospace engineering professor with a handsome plaque citing his "exemplary support to the FAA Safety Team's goals and objectives by participating in safety activities ... which attests to this individual's dedication to aviation safety."

Martin then read a letter to Dr. Shuch from Regional FAA/STeam Manager John Gagliardi, which stated, "We wish

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to thank you for your service as an Aviation Safety Representative. You have volunteered many hours and personal resources to promote aviation safety. We especially commend you for your contributions to the Light Sport aircraft program, which has had a long-term effect toward safety. Your efforts, devotion, and achievements in aviation safety will inspire others."

In addition to running his sport aviation flight school, the news release said Shuch is the volunteer FAA Safety Team Lead Representative for Lock Haven. Piper Memorial Airport is the ancestral home to the legendary Piper Cub,

arguably the world's first sport plane. Modern light sport aircraft allow Sport Pilots to recapture the bygone fly-for-fun Cub era, with increased reliability and improved safety.

The sport pilot license, in which Shuch and AvSport specialize, 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, according to a news release. Sport pilots fly for fun, and are restricted to flying simple, low performance aircraft that comply with the light sport rule. They are allowed to fly in uncongested airspace, during daylight hours, and only in good weather conditions.