

# Bob Everett earns Sport Pilot license



Bob Everett, left, receives his Sport Pilot license from FAA Designated Pilot Examiner Art Tarola, following a successful checkride. PHOTO PROVIDED

LOCK HAVEN — Six months, start to finish. That's how long it took Robert Everett to become a licensed pilot, fulfilling a lifelong dream.

Everett, 52, an Economics professor at Lock Haven University, completed his Sport Pilot license at AvSport of Lock Haven, the sport aviation school on Lock Haven's historic Piper Memorial Airport.

Everett's objective from the start was to become a licensed Private Pilot. As an economist, he recognized that the most cost-effective path to meeting his goal would be to employ the new Sport Pilot certificate, established just ten years ago, as a stepping-stone toward the higher Private Pilot rating. Working with Prof. H. Paul Shuch, AvSport's founder and Chief Flight Instructor, he mapped out a path which would allow him to satisfy many of the Private Pilot licensing requirements, while completing his less costly Sport Pilot rating.

"It was a pleasure," says Shuch, himself a retired college professor, "to work with a fellow educator in devising a curriculum which best met his particular needs. Individualized instruction is what AvSport is all about, and Bob took full advantage of our flexibility."

During his training, Dr. Everett maintained steady progress by flying consistently, once or twice per week, completing a total of 37 flight and ground instruction sessions, and logging 34.4 hours of flight experience. "Just another half-dozen lessons," predicts Shuch, "and he'll be ready to take yet another FAA checkride, this time earning full Private Pilot privileges."

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 30 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."

Although Shuch specializes in training Sport Pilots, about 25 percent of his graduates have continued on to earn the Private Pilot rating.