



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

For Immediate Release:

How Alex Spent His Summer Vacation

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Lock Haven, PA, 27 July 2012 – Most teenagers dream of a summer adventure prior to their final year of high school. For many, a simple road trip will suffice. Alex Greenwald set his sights a bit higher, coming to Lock Haven this month for intensive flight training. Though not yet a licensed pilot, the Lexington MA seventeen-year-old has just passed a major milestone along that road, by completing his first solo flight at AvSport of Lock Haven, the sport flying school on the Piper Memorial Airport. After just three weeks of instruction, and scarcely more than a dozen accumulated flying hours, Greenwald has gained the skills and experience necessary to safely operate the school's Light Sport training aircraft, three times around the local traffic pattern, from smooth takeoffs to gentle landings.

"Alex has been flying three lessons a week," explains Prof. H. Paul Shuch, the flight school's founder and chief instructor, "and studying intensely during every non-flying day. With no distractions or outside obligations, he's managed to progress through our rigorous pre-solo curriculum in half the normal time. He has shown dedication throughout his studies, and has now demonstrated his skills as an airplane driver. I hope he's able to continue on toward the even greater challenge of becoming a fully qualified pilot."

Upon completion of the solo flight, Shuch cut the tail off of Greenwald'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. Alex's shirttail now graces the wall of the AvSport office, proudly joining nine other shirts representing the students who have achieved this same milestone since the flight school was established in January of 2010.

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/Alex_shirt.jpg

CAPTION: Flight instructor Prof. H. Paul Shuch cuts the tail off Alex Greenwald's t-shirt, in an ancient ceremony marking the youngster's first solo flight at AvSport of Lock Haven on the Piper Memorial Airport.