



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

For Immediate Release:

Railroader Earns Pilot's License

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Lock Haven, PA, 4 August 2018 – Just four months after accomplishing his first solo flight at the Piper Memorial Airport, Mark Smart, a railroad maintenance manager originally from Illinois, today achieved a four-decades-old goal, and earned his Pilot's Certificate at AvSport of Lock Haven.

Smart began flying at Lock Haven last October with Prof. H. Paul Shuch, founder and Chief Flight Instructor of AvSport. Upon reaching the milestone of solo flight this Spring, Smart transitioned to advanced training with AvSport Adjunct Flight Instructor Joe Dougherty, who prepared him for his FAA Practical Test. The checkride, consisting of both oral and flight examinations, was completed with Prof. Shuch in his capacity as the area's FAA Designated Sport Pilot Examiner.

Having completed his training in AvSport's primary flight trainer, an Evektor SportStar Max manufactured in the Czech Republic, Mark will now transition to his own aircraft, a Zenith 601XLB experimental airplane he acquired last year, and has been waiting patiently to fly. A skilled mechanic, Mark decided on an experimental aircraft chiefly because of rules allowing him to perform his own maintenance and modifications on it.

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. Sport Pilots fly solely for pleasure, in fair weather, during daylight hours, in simple, low-performance Light Sport aircraft. 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/graduates/Mark_S.jpg

CAPTION: Newly licensed Sport Pilot Mark Smart shows off his temporary airman certificate and logbook endorsement in front of Hangar One on Lock Haven's Piper Memorial Airport, following a successful checkride with FAA Designated Pilot Examiner Prof. H. Paul Shuch.