



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

For Immediate Release:

FAA, Local Flight School Improve Sport Pilot Safety

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Lock Haven, PA, 17 February 2010 – For the first time since establishing the new Sport Pilot license five years ago, the Federal Aviation Administration has amended its rules that govern Sport Pilot training. AvSport of Lock Haven, the sport flying center recently established at Piper Memorial Airport, was among the first flight schools in the nation to adopt the new rule's safety provisions.

Although many of the rules changes were administrative in nature, one provision has significant safety implications, according to AvSport chief flight instructor Prof. H. Paul Shuch. Sport Pilot candidates must now receive training in instrument flight, the art of controlling an airplane solely by reference to electronic or mechanical instruments. "This is a positive change indeed," says Shuch. "Even though Sport Pilots are restricted to daytime flight in good weather, they have been known occasionally to stumble into clouds. It seems a good idea for them to know how to get themselves safely out of them again."

Not all Light Sport Aircraft are equipped for instrument training. Shuch, a US Air Force veteran and longtime instrument flight instructor, insisted that the trainer he purchased for use at AvSport be equipped with the very latest in aviation electronics equipment. "We welcome, and will have no trouble at all complying with, this new FAA mandate," he notes, "and have in fact already been providing instrument training to interested students. Now, all of our students will receive it."

The new FAA training requirement will add approximately \$200 to the cost of obtaining a Sport Pilot license, according to Shuch. "It's a small price to pay for safety," he maintains, "and if it saves just one life, it's money well spent. We've modified our curriculum, and our pricing, accordingly, and hope other flight schools will follow our lead."

In addition to founding the local flight school. Shuch has for several years served on a volunteer basis, as the FAA Safety Team Lead Representative for Lock Haven. AvSport opened the first of the year. The FAA's new Sport Pilot rules go into effect on April 2nd, 2010.

DOWNLOADABLE PHOTO: The modern instrument panel of AvSport's new Light Sport Aircraft is fully equipped for instrument flight training.

http://avsport.org/photos/acft/sportstar_panel.jpg