



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

For Immediate Release:

## **Prison Guard Flies the Coop**

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**Lock Haven, PA, 29 June 2018** – George Snedeker, a retired corrections officer from Julian PA, today slipped the surly bonds of Earth, flying an aircraft solo for the first time at AvSport of Lock Haven on the Piper Memorial Airport. Snedeker, who had just turned 70 three days prior, has been working to check off this bucket list item since last August.

Snedeker had long wanted to learn to fly, but the accomplishment had to await his retirement. This first solo has turned George into what his flight instructor, AvSport founder Prof. H. Paul Shuch, calls an "airplane driver," fully competent to safely manipulate the controls as the sole occupant of a Light Sport aircraft. Following a brief respite, during which he will prepare to sit for his FAA Knowledge Test, George will return to the flight school for advanced training, ultimately leading to his earning a Sport Pilot certificate, and earning the right to be called a "pilot."

Snedeker's dedication to flight is demonstrated by the fact that he has already purchased his own aircraft, an experimental Zenith 601 two-seat sport plane to which he plans to transition for the balance of his training. The plane is currently hangared at the Lock Haven airport. After George qualifies for his Sport Pilot rating, he will move the aircraft to new quarters closer to his home.

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/solo/george.jpg>

CAPTION: Following his first solo flight, George Snedeker's shirt-tail was cut off by his flight instructor, AvSport founder Prof. H. Paul Shuch. This rite of passage dates back to the golden age of aviation, when first-time pilots often had to patch holes in their fabric-covered airplanes with pieces of their own garments.