



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

For Immediate Release:

Local Carpenter Nails First Solo Flight

**For more information, contact Prof. H. Paul Shuch, Chief Flight Instructor
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Lock Haven, PA, 3 September 2022 – Chris Raymond, a carpenter for H. W. Raymond Construction, a family-run custom remodeling contractor in Lock Haven PA, today achieved the significant milestone of flying an aircraft as its sole occupant. Due to multiple pandemic-related delays as well as flight cancellations due to unseasonal weather, it took Raymond, 38, nearly six months to reach this goal at AvSport LLC, the sport flying school on the Piper Memorial Airport in Lock Haven.

“Fortunately, Chris was not in a hurry,” says AvSport founder and Chief Flight Instructor Dr. H. Paul Shuch, a retired Physics professor and lifelong pilot. “He wanted to take his time, and master every required maneuver before venturing aloft on his own. It being a beautiful summer day, Piper Memorial Airport was busier than usual, but Chris deftly yielded to other traffic, and performed flawlessly.” After a short break, later this month Raymond will continue on to advanced training, which will take him from what Prof. Shuch calls an “airplane driver,” all the way to a licensed Sport Pilot.

“Living in lock Haven,” recalls Raymond, “I always saw planes flying around during the fly-in, and watched crop dusters spraying the crops on the island. I’ve flown in a lot of different aircraft over the years, and have always wanted to learn how to fly. My wife encouraged me to take lessons. I met Paul Shuch at AvSport of Lock Haven, and he became my instructor. My time flying with him has truly been a great learning experience. He is not only a good instructor, but has introduced me to a lot of friendly pilots in local aviation community. It’s like an extended family, everybody helping everyone else along the path.”

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://avsport.org/photos/solo/chris.jpg>

CAPTION: Prof. H. Paul Shuch congratulates student pilot Chris Raymond on his first successful solo flight, by trimming his shirttail. This tradition dates back to the Golden Age of aviation, when fledgling aviators often had to patch holes in their fabric covered aircraft with pieces of their own garments.

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