



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

For Immediate Release:

Aircraft Mechanic Flies What He Fixes

**For more information, contact Prof. H. Paul Shuch, Chief Flight Instructor
Office (570) 748-3725, Cell (570) 419-1229, email fly@AvSport.org**

Lock Haven, PA, 28 May 2023 – Wayne Klug, a retired United Airlines mechanic originally from South Dakota, today achieved the significant milestone of flying an aircraft as its sole occupant. He started his training at AvSport LLC, the sport flying school on the Piper Memorial Airport in Lock Haven, in July 2022, just as the COVID 19 pandemic was beginning to wind down. Still, he endured multiple delays, and more than a few lesson cancellations, before finally achieving his initial solo flight ten months later.

“This was not Wayne’s first rodeo,” says AvSport founder and Chief Flight Instructor Dr. H. Paul Shuch, a retired Physics professor, Air Force veteran (as is Klug), and lifelong pilot. “He had begun flight training decades ago in Iowa, but as often happens, life got in the way. It took relocation and retirement to put him back in the pilot’s seat.” In September, following a short break for home study in preparation for his FAA Knowledge Test, Klug will continue on to advanced flight training, which will take him from what Prof. Shuch calls an “airplane driver,” all the way to a licensed Sport Pilot.

Wayne’s mechanical background, notes Shuch, definitely contributed significantly to his flying skills. “His instinctive understanding of aerodynamics and systems operation transferred positively to his skill with the stick. I needed only to help Wayne train his muscle memory for the manipulative aspects of flight. Soon, in post-solo study, he will be adding numerous cognitive skills to his toolbox. By the end of the year, I expect he will have earned his Sport Pilot rating, making him fully qualified to share his love of the sky with his first passengers.”

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/Wayne.jpg>

CAPTION: Prof. H. Paul Shuch congratulates student pilot Wayne Klug on a successful solo flight, by trimming his shirttail. This tradition is as old as aviation, harkening back to the days when fledgling aviators often had to patch holes in their fabric covered aircraft with pieces of their own garments.

- 30 -