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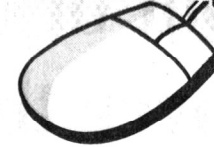
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Drones give commercial photographer new perspective

Eric Stashak, one of the first professional photographers in the area to move into the third dimension, will soon be offering commercial photography and videography services from a drone. Stashak, who trained to become a commercial drone operator at AvSport of Lock Haven on the Piper Memorial Airport, earned his FAA Remote Pilot certificate in early December, according to a news release.

A graduate of the Philadelphia Art Institute, Stashak is the founder of Eric Stashak Commercial Photography in Williamsport. Since 1993 he has been providing commercial photography and video services to local and national companies. According to the news release, when the Federal Aviation Administration released standards for the licensing of commercial drone operators this past



PHOTO PROVIDED

Commercial videographer Eric Stashak gains drone flying experience at AvSport of Lock Haven on the Piper Memorial Airport, while earning his FAA Remote Pilot certificate.

summer, he recognized a unique opportunity to take his business to new heights. Stashak completed

AvSport's new Remote Pilot training program on Nov. 15, and following two weeks of self-study and

review, sat successfully for his required FAA Knowledge test. His instructor, Prof. H. Paul

Shuch, is not only the founder of the Lock Haven flight school, but also became the country's very first licensed commercial drone operator. Over the next few weeks, Shuch will be helping Stashak to shop the market and select a high-end remote aircraft system appropriate to his company's needs.

"Keeping up with technology is a daily challenge for today's photographers and videographers," Stashak said, according to the news release. "Now we have to keep up on FAA rules and regulations affecting our trade as well. The UAV industry has opened up many new opportunities, and the introduction of these amazing machines has given us a totally new perspective. Thanks to Dr. H. Paul Shuch at AvSport, I was able to acquire excellent training and guidance crucial to gaining FAA certification. Aerial

photography and video production can now be done without the hassle of hiring pilots, chartering planes or helicopters, and orchestrating it with the weather. We're very excited at the prospect of what this new addition will bring to our business."

AvSport's Remote Pilot course, which emphasizes crew resource management and teamwork between players, runs over three consecutive days, and includes twelve hours of classroom instruction, and an additional six hours of hands-on drone flight training. The next class is scheduled to run January 10-12, 2017, on the airport in Lock Haven. For further information about commercial drone operations and licensing, browse to www.drone-training.org, or visit the school on social media at [facebook.com/DroneTrainingOrg](https://www.facebook.com/DroneTrainingOrg).