

the HIGH of Flying

Club members can't get enough of piloting radio-controlled model planes and helicopters

Model planes, from Page 23

Greene Road in Baldwin until they became affiliated with Seventh District Recreation Council and moved to 5 acres on the Parkton landfill site in 1991.

The members raised money to build a clubhouse they named "Stricker's Hall" to honor Don Stricker, of Sparks, one of the

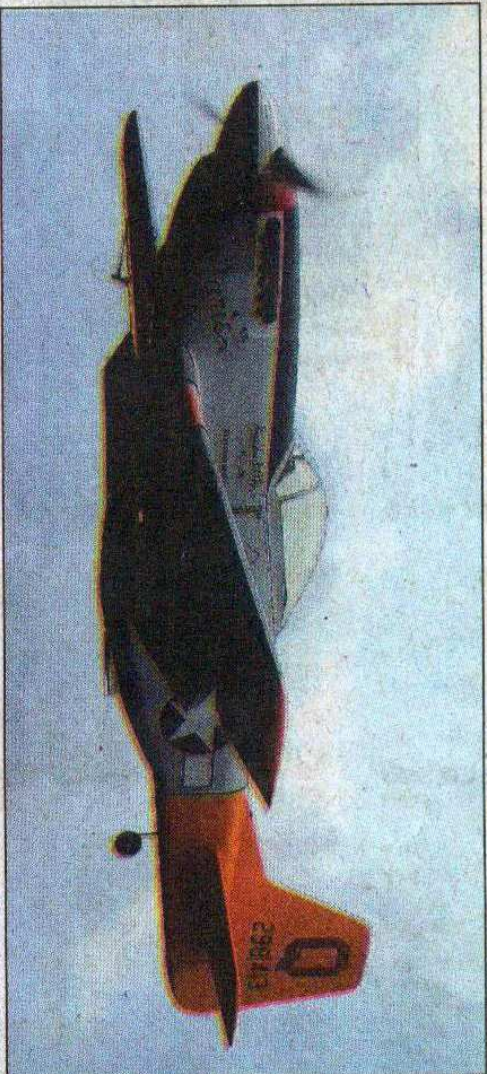


PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

A model plane in flight Aug. 26 at Kirk Field in Parkton.

original members.

Stricker, 78, said the club has spend more than \$100,000 on grading the property, paving the runway, and building a clubhouse, small hangar for model planes and storage shed for lawn mowers. It received a \$3,328 grant from the Academy of Model Aeronau-

tics to help with construction.

Members also created shelters so visitors could sit in the shade while watching planes soar. The club allows a maximum of six planes in the air at a time.

"You don't want to go any higher than you can see," said Stricker, who doesn't fly much

because his hand/eye coordination skills have diminished.

He comes to the field these days with his son, Steve, who started flying when he was 8. Steve Stricker, who works at AAI, is a master of airplane aerobatics and even won a national radio-control flying championship in Las Vegas in 1996.

But not everyone is an expert. Walt Dunsmore, of Herford, joined four years ago after he spent a winter in his basement building "Ole Yeller," a bright yellow World War II-era plane from scratch.

He hopes to add a Barbie doll to a wing to simulate a wing-walker and wants to create an advertising banner for the plane to pull.

"I like to build them, fly them, crash them and rebuild them," he said. "There's always somebody in the club you can go to for help or for advice. These guys love to fly and they're out here all the time. Even if you're not flying, it's nice to be out here watching the action."

Kirk Field is located at 800 Stablers Church Road. The club's website is www.rcmb.org.