

# NEWS

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PHOTO BY STEVE RUARK

**Jack Stites, of Baldwin, president of the Radio Control Modelers of Baltimore, prepares his model plane to fly at Kirk Field, in Parkton, on Aug. 26.**

Like any good pilot, Jack Stites prepared his plane for takeoff by inspecting the wings and body and by moving the wing flaps to make sure there were no obstructions.

Satisfied with its air-worthiness, he piloted the red-and-white plane as it took off and soared over lush green hillsides.

But Stites, 75, didn't take to the air with his plane. In fact, the cockpit was empty. Stites stood on a grassy field in Parkton and used a hand-held radio to control the 14-pound plane.

"Ahh. Look at that. Look at that. It's windy today, but not too windy," he said as his plane made wide arcs through the Parkton sky

## the HIGH of *Flying*

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

Story by Pat van den Beemt

while he moved two joysticks to control its path.

He said it becomes difficult to control a plane if the wind is more than 15 mph.

The gas-powered plane landed safely several minutes later on a paved runway. It turned and bumped along the grass until it stopped a few feet away from Stites, the president of the Radio Control Modelers of Baltimore. The club meets at Kirk Field at the Parkton landfill, named for John Kirk, of Towson, a World War II fighter pilot and former club president who died in 2004.

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