

Community news

LIFESTYLE

BE READY FOR RUNNERS

If you have trouble getting to church on time on Sundays, expect a really tough time this Sunday.

For weeks, several Annapolis churches have been warning their congregations to be prepared for delays in and around town Sunday morning, when the 14th Annual Annapolis Run is held. Some 3,500 runners, along with a support cast of hundreds, will be on the streets, bridges and sidewalks for the 10-mile run.

The warning comes after hundreds of churchgoers were delayed en route to services last year. Many churchgoers and ministers were outraged.

This year, expect delays on the old Severn River and Spa Creek bridges and Rowe Boulevard.

If you want to help the race sponsors, the Annapolis Striders, with traffic flow and other aspects of the race, race helpers are still needed. Call 268-0982 to volunteer.

FIGHTING BATMAN PIRATES

Warner Bros., the studio that produced the incredibly successful "Batman" movie, wants to make sure it gets every penny coming to it — big sacks of pennies that are routinely lost to video pirates — so it has taken measures worthy of the Caped Crusader to prevent the unauthorized duplication and distribution of bogus Batmen.

Those measures include marking each of the 4,000 prints of the movie with a unique electronic code that will show up on video copies, enabling investigators to track pirated copies to the source. In addition, Warner Bros., in conjunction with the film security office of the Motion Picture Association of America, is offering a reward of \$15,000 for information leading to the conviction of anyone illegally copying and distributing copies of the movie. Further, a reward of \$200 is being offered for each of the first 15 pirated copies of "Batman" turned in to the MPAA.

SIZE OF HOMES SHRINKS

The number of first-time home buyers hasn't decreased in the past five years, but the size of homes they buy has.

"The average first-time buyer is a few years older, buying a smaller house or purchasing a townhouse or condominium instead of a single family home," says Monte Helme of Century 21 Real Estate Corp. "The first-time buyer may also be purchasing farther out and in less expensive neighborhoods."

The national percentage of first-time buyers remains at 40 percent of all home purchases, although rising prices and mortgage interest rates have caused buyers to scale down their desires.

The average price of a starter home rose to \$77,800 in March from \$63,000 in 1985.

DISH SERVES UP A LOT

Good news for area residents in rural areas not served by cable TV: Thanks to miniaturization, by the early 1990s, the satellite receiving dish could become as commonplace in homes as VCRs and microwave ovens.

The difference between then and now will be that satellite receivers no longer will be backyard dishes, because no back yard will be required.

The next generation of dishes — capable of receiving more than 100 channels — will be not much larger than a hard-cover book, making it possible to take the dish indoors.

More good news: The cost of a minidish is expected to be less than \$500.

TIPOFF

BACK-TO-SCHOOL TRAUMA

For kids, making the transition from summer vacation to fall classes can be mentally and physically traumatic.

Schools can be very taxing, and some children just have a hard time re-adjusting. Their summer brain is still in their head, not their school brain.

They just can't get rid of summer. But can anyone help?

Yes, experts say — Mom and Dad can.

Enthusiasm, planning and a dash of parent's intuition can go a long way toward ensuring both parents and children survive the crises that come sprinkled through the academic year.

The time to start is now. You can:

■ Establish a routine before school begins.

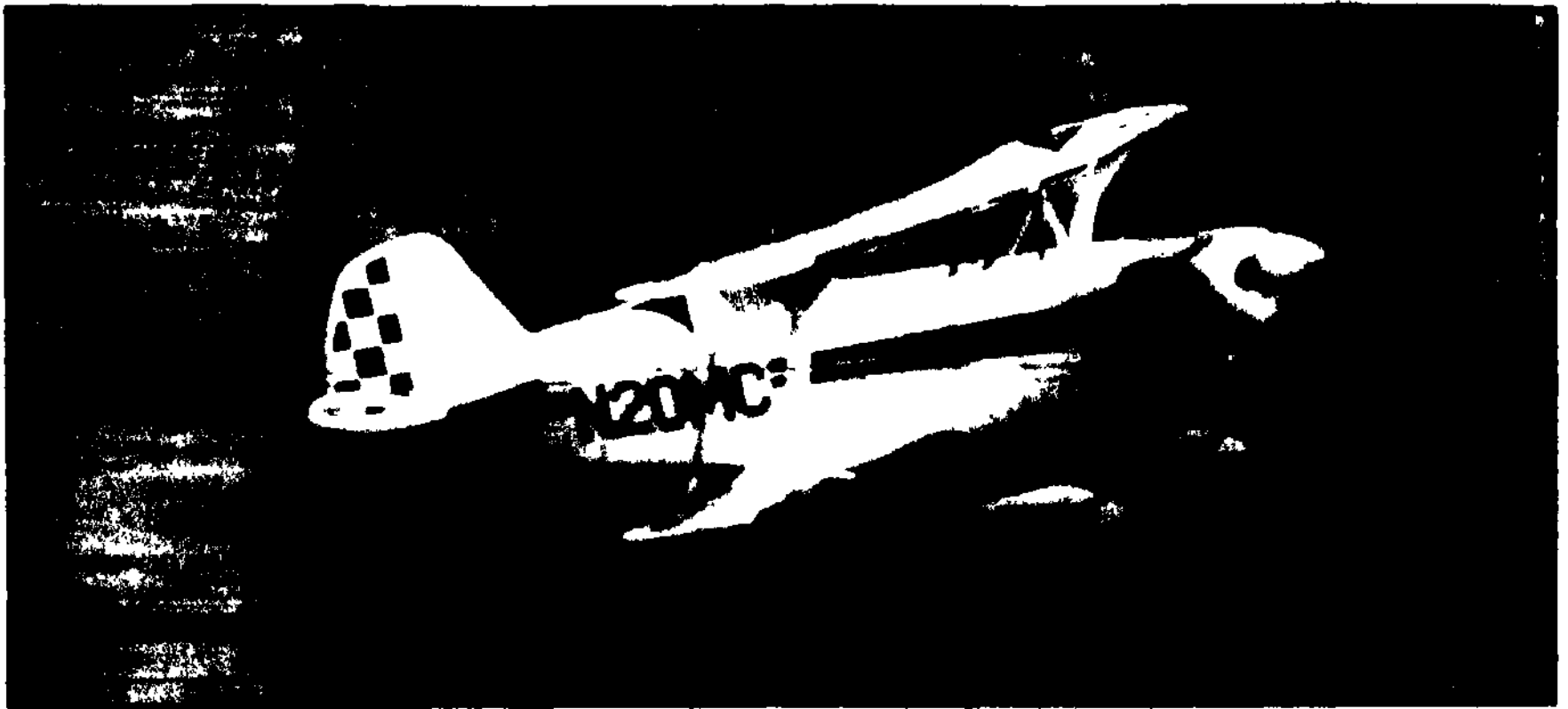
■ Measure as simple as going to bed earlier and getting up earlier.

■ More reading, less television and outings to buy school supplies can help the academic year begin smoothly.

■ Include children in back-to-school planning to help them develop organizational skills.

■ Encourage your kids to be self-reliant about clothing and shoes.

■ Practice how they will get to and from school, and get them used to sitting still by listening to records, drawing or working puzzles.



What goes up must come down, although not always right-side up. Bob Babura of Severn checks on his model SE-5A World War I fighter plane after it flipped on touchdown.

JUST  
PLANE  
CRAZY

Sky's the limit for model builders

By FRANCES JAUQUES  
Staff Writer

If it looks like a plane, sounds like a plane and acts like a plane, it must be — a plane.

And a fleet of 20 or more of these objects, assembled in one field, can become a mini-world of the sights and sounds of flight.

There's Joe Solko, a World War II P-38 flier, guiding his Air Cobra P-39 Army fighter scale model in a series of skilled maneuvers above an Arden on the Severn athletic field.

Keith Brown of Pasadena and his grandson, Bill Bunn, are flying two of their model planes, a 1935 Piper Cub and a P-51 World War II Army fighter.

The occasion for this scaled-down display of intricate take-offs, in-flight stunts and fancy airplane maneuverability was the annual scale contest of the Chesapeake Bay Radio Control Club.

Planes were taken to the three-round competition held at Arden on the Severn in Crownsville by scale model builders from Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

The all-day meet Sunday was conducted under the rules and guidance of the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

Modelists competed in one of four categories: fun scale, sports scale, expert or precision scale, and giant scale.

The exhibition featured planes that can best be described as the Rolls-Royces of model airplane

construction.

"Building RC (radio-controlled) planes is not a little hobby," said Bob Johns, competition director. "This is not an activity one walks into a hobby store and flies off with. These planes are not toys."

All the planes entered in the scale contest were hand-built to duplicate the original models. Some were fashioned from kits, others from photographs or designs.

There's no limit to the kinds of planes that can be built and entered in these competitions.

For example, at Sunday's event there were replicas of a crop-dusting plane, a split-tail 1943 Army experimental plane, and several models of Army and Navy fighters and trainers from both world wars.

On-ground judging is based on accuracy of outline, craftsmanship and finish, which includes color and markings.

Additional in-flight judging rates landings and takeoffs, flight maneuvers and skill of the handler.

Don Rothbaum of Reisterstown entered his model of a 1930 Navy trainer Fleet Model 2 in the giant scale category. The plane has a five cylinder engine and can fly at speeds up to 40 miles per hour. It took him 1½ years to build.

A salesman by profession, Rothbaum has been building model planes since 1956. He estimates that he has about \$3,500 tied up in that one plane.

But many kits can be bought for (See PLANES, Page B2)



George Skala of Gambrills, a member of the Chesapeake Bay Radio Control Club, carries a model plane to the practice field for a little serious fun.



Bill Setzler painstakingly built this model of a German Eindecker E-W World War I plane from the ground up. The plane, with a wingspan several feet wider than his owner's height, won the Canadian National giant scale competition last month. The plane, built one-third the size of the actual plane and complete with pilot, took Setzler more than 1,500 hours to build.