

# Model flying club welcomes all ages

BY RENA FULKA  
SPECIAL WRITER

Seconds after his launch, Joseph Hass skillfully catches a thermal of naturally rising air that sends his motorized sail plane soaring across a blue sky cluttered with billowy white clouds.

After a 10-minute flight characterized by a series of majestic patterns, Hass adjusts the flight controls and brings the craft down for a smooth landing. Cupping his hands to his mouth, he shouts, Man on the field.

Five-year-old Christopher is quick to take the cue and set out on the path of retrieval.

For the Troy father and son team, Student Night with the Skyramblers Radio Control Club of Michigan offers an opportunity to hone the craft, meet other aviation enthusiasts and enjoy a family-style meal in the pavilion. Club instructors are on hand from 4 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays throughout the summer (weather permitting) to guide newcomers through the process of flying miniature aircraft. In the five years since its inception, Student Night has continued to gain momentum, drawing up to 80 individuals to the Scripps Road Flying Field at Bald Mountain State Park in Lake Orion.

"It's a way to experience flight



**Finishing touch:** Paul Zabawa of Metamora makes some final adjustments before sending his model airplane to flight.

without your feet ever leaving the ground," said Hass, Academy of Model Aeronautics District VII vice president and one of the club's 30 flight instructors.

The son of a Wayne hobby-shop owner, Hass built his first model airplane when he was 5 years old and has been passionate about the hobby ever since. His growing collection of miniatures includes electric-powered sail planes, vertical rocket-powered gliders, helicopters, pontoon planes, a blimp, or, as Hass puts it, at least one of everything. Two of his sons, David, 21, and Christopher share his interest in aviation.

"I think it's great," said Hass wife, Paula. "He and his sons have a very powerful relationship and the bonding is something that many fathers and sons have to work to build all their lives."

The Troy couple have two other children, Joseph Richard,

**"It's a way to experience flight without your feet ever leaving the ground."**

**Joseph Hass**  
Radio Control flyer

23, and Elizabeth, 18.

Hass' passion for aviation reached new heights four years ago, when he acquired a license to pilot full-size planes. "Flying, whether it's models or full size, is a tremendous release for me," said Hass, who works in medical supply sales. "It clears the mind and allows me to focus on one task."

Like Hass, Greg Cardillo of Lake Orion flew his first model airplane as a child with his father at his side. "We were flying a balsa glider and we saw planes flying in the next park," recalled the Long Island native. "So we went over and got hooked

on it very quickly."

The father-son hobby soon evolved from \$2 rubber band-powered models to remote control airplanes costing \$100 or more. Aviation hobbyists can spend up to \$2,000 for a single aircraft. Models can fly anywhere from 4 to 250 mph and have wing spans ranging from 15 inches to 12 feet. The average miniature has a five-foot wing span and flies 60 to 80 mph up to an altitude of 35,000 feet.

A systems engineer, Cardillo joined Skyramblers three years ago when he moved to Oakland County from Rochester, N. Y. He is president of the 180-member club, which is among 2,400 AMA-chartered flying clubs across the country, 70 of which are in Michigan.

"One of the things I like about this club is that it's very family oriented," said Cardillo, whose wife, Denise, joins him on the

See FLYERS, A14

**Flying partners:** With his buddy box in hand above, Christopher Hass, 5, pilots his miniature aircraft under the watchful eye of his father, Joe Hass.

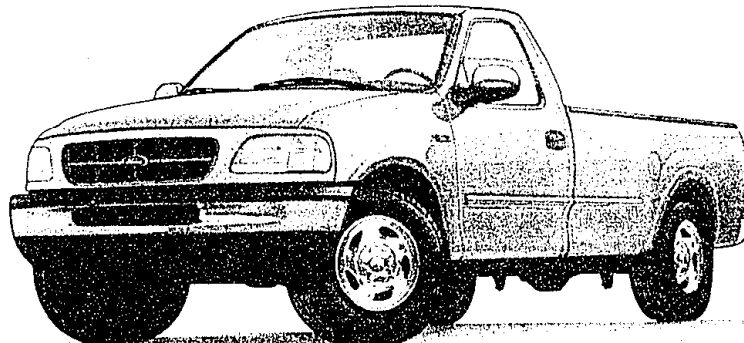
**Whirly Bird:** Piloting his helicopter through a series of thrill-seeking maneuvers is Joe Hass of Troy, right, Academy of Model Aeronautics District VII vice president.



## SUBURBAN FORD DEALERS OPEN SATURDAYS TO SERVE YOU BETTER NOW LEASE A NEW FORD F-150 XLT

### '97 F-150 XLT FEATURES:

V-6/5 Speed Manual O/D,  
Tilt Steering, Chrome Rear Step  
Bumper, 40/60 Split Bench,  
And More.....



### '97 F-150 XLT FEATURES:

Polished Aluminum Wheels,  
Speed Control, Air Conditioning,  
And More.....

FOR AS LOW AS

**\$231**

A MONTH(1)  
WITH A 24  
MONTH LOW  
LEASE OR RED  
CARPET LEASE.

FIRST MONTH'S PAYMENT \$ 230.56  
REFUNDABLE SECURITY DEPOSIT \$ 250.00  
DOWN PAYMENT \$1,860.00  
CUSTOMER CASH DUE AT SIGNING\* \$2,340.56

**HUNDREDS OF  
F-SERIES MODELS  
IN STOCK TO  
CHOOSE FROM**

(1) '97 F-150 XLT reg/cab with PEP 507A w/midrange MSRP of \$18,350 excluding Title, Tax, License fee. Lease payment based on average capitalized cost of 94.06% of MSRP (F-Series) for 24-month closed-end Ford Credit Red Carpet lease purchased in the Detroit Region through 5/30/97. Some payments higher, some lower. See dealer for payment/terms. Lessee may have option to buy vehicle at lease end at a price negotiated with dealer at lease signing. Lessee responsible for excess wear/tear and mileage over 24,000 at \$15/mile. Credit approval/insurability determined by Ford Credit. For special lease terms take new retail delivery from dealer stock by 1/30/97. Total amount of monthly payments \$5,533.44. See dealer for complete details. (2) 12,000 miles per year, 24 month RCL contracts only. \*excludes tax, title and license fee.

**VARSIY  
FORD, INC.**  
ANN ARBOR  
3480 Jackson Rd.  
(313) 996-2300

**BRIARWOOD  
FORD\***  
SALINE  
7070 Michigan Ave.  
(313) 429-5478

**ATCHINSON  
FORD SALES, INC.\***  
BELLEVILLE  
9800 Belleville Rd.  
(313) 697-9161

**HINES PARK  
FORD**  
MILFORD  
130 S. Milford Rd.  
(810) 684-1715

**BRIGHTON  
FORD**  
BRIGHTON  
8240 W. Grand River  
(810) 227-1171

\*Closed Saturday Until September