

BAY WEEKLY

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The Older Boys of Summer

Story & Photos by SCOTT SOWERS

Joe Cannon Stadium at Harmans Park sits near the intersection of Routes 100 and 713, just east of the Arundel Mills Mall. Sitting in the stands, you can hear the white hiss of traffic noise from I295 mixed in with the sounds of jets climbing out of BWI. You can also hear the ping of aluminum bats from the batting cage, the thwack of hard balls hitting gloves and the sound of cleats scraping against the concrete floors in the dugouts.

This is a well maintained little stadium with a concession stand, press box and an electronic scoreboard. Filled to capacity, it holds 1500 fans. But for tonight's game between the Indians and the White Sox the official attendance is four. As in four people. Welcome to the world of adult amateur baseball.

This isn't the minors, the pony leagues or anything too official. But if you're a man over 38



years old and want to play baseball, meaning hard ball, it's possible to come to a place like Joe Cannon and have 20 other guys show up in full uniform at the same time with the same idea in mind.

At 6:30 on a Wednesday pick-up trucks and family sedans, start pulling into the parking lot as guys get out and head to the stadium carrying large equipment bags. They're already dressed for baseball having changed at home, at work or somewhere in between. The shoulders are stooped, some of the gaits show a bit of limp but they are smiling and laughing as they make their way to the dugouts. Happy men going to play baseball.

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