

IPMS Phantom Phlashers Presents;

The Phantom Phocus

Volume 2, Issue 8

September 2008

Special points of interest:

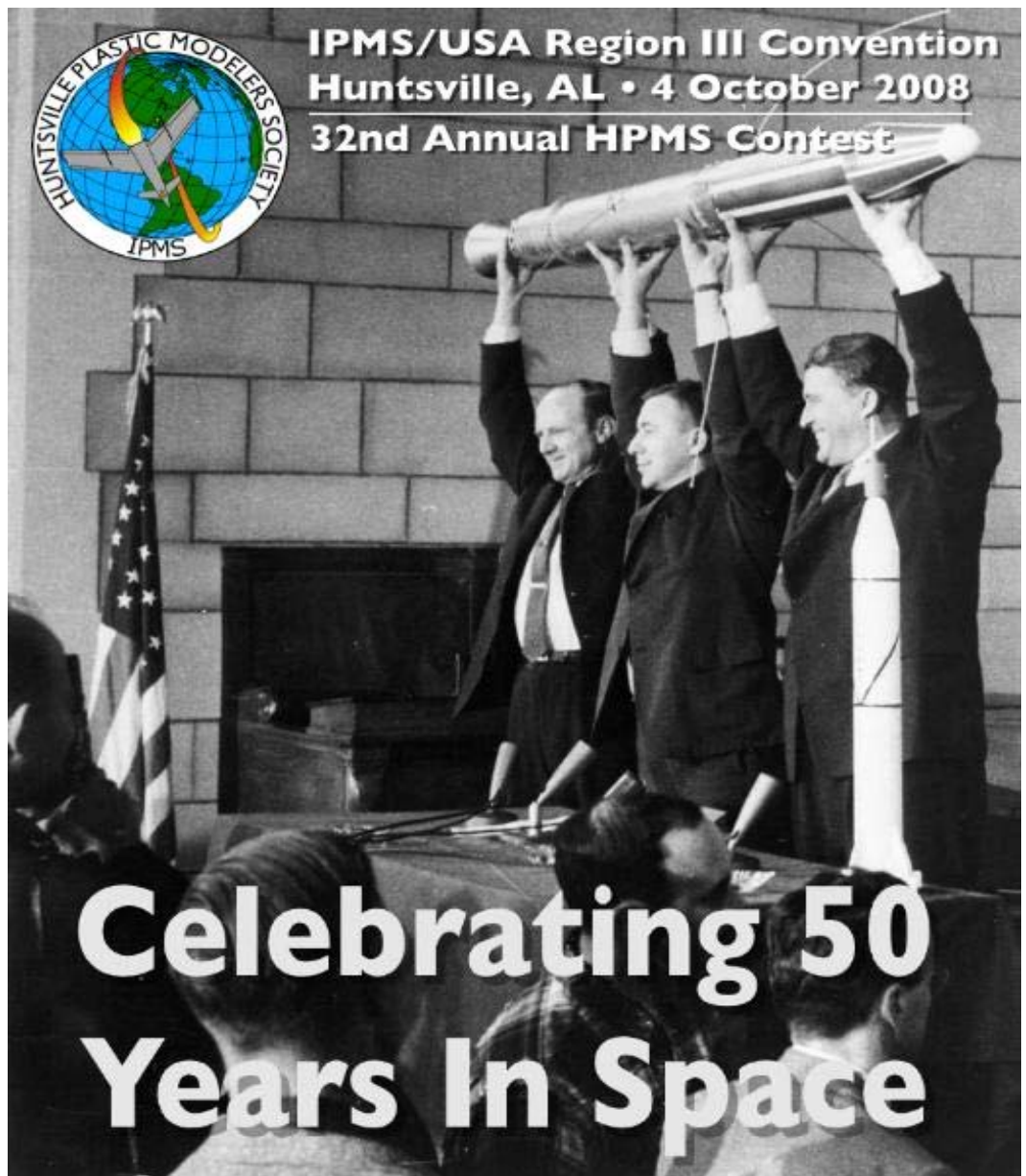
- Huntsville Contest
- What happened in August
- Summer Modeling Camp

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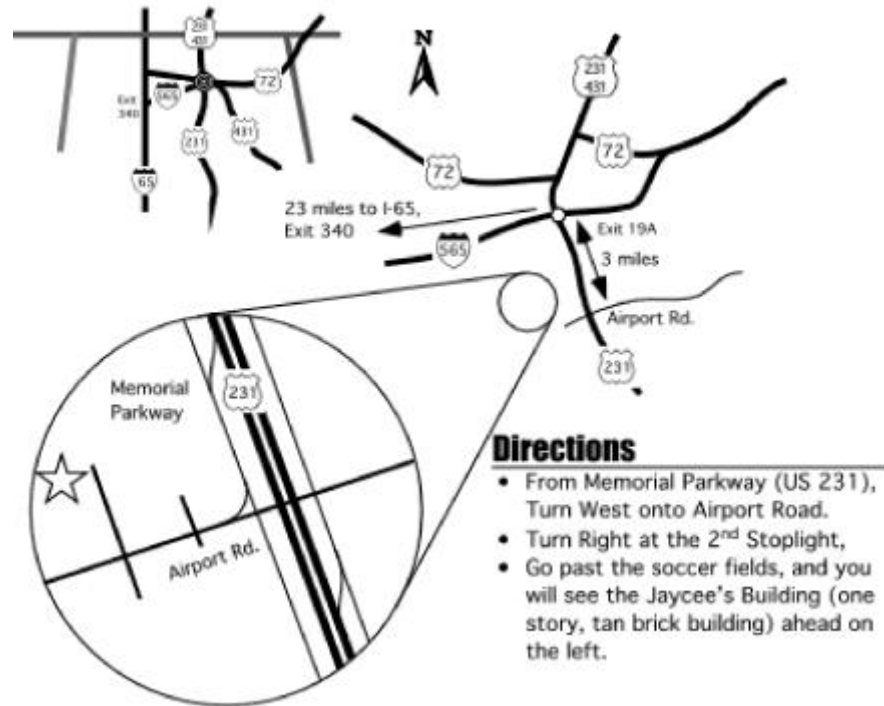
Huntsville Contest by William Nichols

The 2008 Huntsville Contest will be held on Saturday October 4, 2008 at



Huntsville Contest

the Jaycee's Building once again. This year Huntsville will host the IMPS Region 3 event, and the theme of the contest is a fitting 'Fiftieth Anniversary of NASA'. If at all possible, please ,make plans to make the short drive to Huntsville to support our fellow Alabama chapters.



You can visit Huntsville on the at: <http://welcome.to/hpmsweb>

Huntsville always puts on a great show, and this year will not disappoint. Several members of the Phantom Phlashers have purchased vendors tables for the event, including Phil Hale, Larry Erwin, Will Nichols, and Ron Taylor. Also, Will, Trey, and Rex will be carrying a number of Darryl Epperson's kits to Huntsville to sale to help raise money for Donna and Darryl's family. They will be bringing over 300 (yes, 300!) kits of all scales and all types from aircraft to space to armor to dinosaurs and everything in between. All are priced to sale, and reasonable offers will be accepted, but don't haggle too much because the proceeds are going to the family of one of our own.

I look forward to seeing you in Huntsville in October!

No October Meeting

There will no meeting in the month of October due to the number of members expected to attend the Huntsville show. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

Regularly scheduled meetings will resume in November on Saturday November 1, 2008.

The December meeting will feature the return of our Christmas pot-luck lunch and the World War II 1946 and Beyond contest!

Please keep your calendars updated.

September Meeting Round-up

The September meeting was held on Saturday September 6, 2008 at the Southern Museum of Flight. Attendance was high, and topics of discussion included:

- Well wishes for Chad Richmond who is recovering from heart surgery
- The Huntsville Contest
- The November 1 show in Warner Robbins, GA
- The November 1 show in Murfreesboro, TN
- Undercoatings for natural metal finishes
- Dues & raffle prizes

There was no demonstration in September and there is not one planned for November at the moment, so if you have one, please suggest it and bring it. Everyone loves seeing new ideas and tricks, and they help make our meetings a forum for idea exchanges.

Highlands School Summer Model Camp by Ed Sims

Seven second to fourth graders and fifteen hours to complete a Hum-vee. Could it be done?

The summer day camp program at the Highlands School in Birmingham, Alabama included a class on "Beginning Model Building." This is the first time I've attempted to lead a class like this... I've taught three nephews and my six-year old son the basics of model building, and I help with the Make 'n Take at our annual contest, but this was definitely a new experience for me.

Assisted by fellow IPMS'ers Phil Hale and Will Nichols, each student chose to build either the Tamiya or the Italeri Humvee in 1/48 scale. The class worked furiously for five straight days, three hours a day.

The kids were great! Along the way, they learned about choosing the right kind of glues and paints, weathering with washes and dry-brushing, how to make realistic bases, attaching stowage, and a host of other skills.

The end result? Happy modelers! Many thanks to Phil, Will and IPMS for sponsoring the class.

Editors Note: It was very fun and very rewarding to help at the summer camp! Also, it reminded the Editor why he teaches high school and not elementary school...



The Kid's Humvee's by Ed Sims



Dr. Phil by Phil Hale

I guess we'll spend a few minutes on seat belts. Normally, I like to make my own belts and buckles. I really to make the belt part out of Tamiya tape. The tape has a slight amount of texture and takes paint well. I will cut two pieces of tape and lay one of top of the other to give it some thickness. This may not be totally accurate but it makes the tape stand away from the seat a little.

Some people use wine bottle foil and it works well but for me the tape works better. It will stick to the surface and the when painted it is sealed from the air. I have had to use super glue to secure it to a resin seat but this happens mostly with Classic Airframes resin. I have tried cleaning the resin with anything from alcohol to lacquer thinner and nothing works but the super glue.

I have a book called US Navy Ejection Seats Volume 1 and it shows drawings and several pictures of the basic seat harness used in World War II and the early 1950's. I use this book to scratch build buckles on US Aircraft. I have other references that I use to make German, British, Japanese and other buckles. I just cut and shape either .005 or .010 sheet plastic into the proper shapes. I cut the tape to the proper lengths and then super glue the buckles to the ends of the belts. It takes a little time but I like the results. I will use resin seats with belts if they are available and look good.

One thing to remember when making your own belts is to place them as random as possible. Try not to make them look posed. Sometimes, I like to show the shoulder harness outside the cockpit as if the crew chief has them ready to help strap in the pilot.

Use your imagination on this part.

I know a modeler that uses "remove before flight tags" to help seats look different. If he was building a Phantom or Intruder that used the same seat and he had to use seats from the same aftermarket company, he then would place a remove before flight tag on a different place on the seat to make them look a little more random. Little things like this add to the complicated look that is a modern jet cockpit. I have used photo etched belts but they are hard to place in a random state and they look like they were made from metal. Turbo was the best at using photo etched belts. He had a way of making them look natural. I wish he would write an article and share this method with us. I have not used the resin belts made by Cutting Edge but I have seen them and they do look very good. I guess I'm old school. I just like doing it myself. Ok, that's it was this month.

Summer Model Camp Write-Up by Highlands School

This summer the “Beginning Model Building” camp session offered during Highlands Summer Camp program set forth a challenge to seven second to fourth graders. They were given fifteen hours to complete a Humvee.

The summer camp session was taught by IPMS member Ed Sims with assistance from fellow IPMS members, Phil Hale and Will Nichols. Each camper was given the choice of building either a Tamiya or a Italeri Humvee in 1/48 scale. The class worked furiously for five straight days, three hours a day.

The kids excelled in the challenge! Along the way, they learned about choosing the right kind of glues and paints, weathering with washes and dry-brushing, how to make realistic bases, attaching stowage, and a host of other skills.

**This Space is Wait-
ing on YOUR sub-
mission to fill it!**



Birmingham, AL

Inside this issue:

- *Huntsville Preview!*
- *September meeting activities!*
- *Modeling Summer Camp!*

*Phantom
Phocus*

www.phantomplashers.org



A Message from the Editor

Well, another month has come in gone in the annals of the Phantom Phocus. This issue is a little lack-luster compared to the last, but, I am back in college and work has started back to my free time to cook up articles is nil.

So, unless you want to see more of those large blue space fillers in future issues, please help me!

This is the eternal news letter editors plea:

CONTENT

I have no money to buy new kits and decals to review (reference going back to college). The entire club and the world wide internet modeling community (yes, our little newsletter has international readers) are depending on you to help out.

So, thank you to Ed Sims for his write up of the Modeling Summer Camp, and to the fellows in Huntsville for the images of their contest flier.

Speaking of, I'll see you there.

William Nichols