

10 Dillon Aero's 2008 Calendar

By Duane Thomas

Mike Dillon actually owns two separate businesses. Dillon Precision builds reloading machines; Dillon Aero manufactures the M134 Minigun. Every year both businesses get their own calendar. In this article we'll address the 2008 Dillon Aero calendar.

Miss January is Cathy, Dillon Blue Press readers' favorite cover model ever, wearing a white tennis dress. The Minigun in this shot is mounted to an MD500F helicopter, basically the civilian equivalent of the U.S. Army's "Little Bird." The mount is new from Dillon Aero, both lighter and stronger than the mount the Army's using currently.

Miss February is April, ironically. Last year she actually got to be Miss April on the Aero calendar, but it didn't work out that way this year. April is a **Blue Press** regular; she's been on several covers and in several calendar shots before. April is your basic all-American girl type: blond (which is Mike Dillon's favorite color), wearing a dark-red cross between lingerie and pantsuit.

Miss March is Daniela, from Romania. Of all the shots in the calendar, this is the one that pulls in most tightly on the woman. It has the most dramatic lighting; the left side of her face is more in shadow. It's a dramatic shot of a beautiful woman – a working mom, actually.

Miss April is Mallory, who as her primary job is a veterinarian. Mallory is a very sweet-looking blond who refers to herself as a "gym rat" so she spends a lot of time working on her abs. A good thing, considering the short top and cut-off blue jeans she's wearing here. Unfortunately for us, Mallory is about to move cross-country to learn how to treat elephants, strangely enough. Obviously she also works as a model. Mallory does not work through any agency; she represents herself, very well, actually.

Mallory's boyfriend is an Army helicopter pilot, which is how she came to the attention of the folks at Dillon. She showed up one day with her boyfriend, everyone at Dillon said, "Wow, you should be a model." And she was. Right now, Dillon is trying to shoot as much of Mallory as possi-

ble before she moves, though this shot is from the very first photo session they ever did with her.

Miss May is Daniela again, looking almost recognizable from her previous appearance. Dillon has done this same basic shot – a leggy woman in a short dress standing in front of a helicopter – with a number of models. And they're still working on it. It's a classic look where the girl is actually standing quite a ways in front of the chopper, then you use a telephoto lens to compress the focal length so it looks like she's standing right in front of it.

Miss June is also Daniela, with yet another different look, the pig-tailed farmer's daughter. Here she looks like an extra from Hee-Haw. That was a compliment, by the way.

Miss July is Cathy again. This is my favorite shot. It has Cathy in a tight, red-white-and-blue American flag top, and white short shorts. **Blue Press** editor Mark Pixler comments, "Unfortunately, I was in Germany during this photo shoot, and I wish I'd been HERE. Seeing this shot in the photo is amazing. Seeing it in person would have been just outrageous."

Miss August is Desi, from Bulgaria. This image comes from the same photo shoot as the cover shot. The woman is a beautiful brunette; the

dress is red, low-cut and sprayed-on. The vehicle is one of 24 built by Dillon Aero for a client whose identity cannot be disclosed – almost as mysterious as Desi looks in this shot. This is a GMC Yukon XL, a 3/4-ton vehicle, upgraded with one-ton suspension, armed with a Dillon mini-gun in a ring mount, intended to be a low-profile, stealthy defensive vehicle for VIP convoy escort, etc.

Miss September is Misty, a pretty blond (that color again). One of Mike Dillon's associates in the military saw this picture and thought he was having a heart attack. Mark Pixler comments, "Every once in a while people call in to complain about our 'half-naked models' or that our covers are 'pornographic.' I usually just laugh, but in this case...they may have a point." I can't say more, but when you see the shot you'll know what I mean. This also happens to be one of the

...continued on Page 42

