

PINGAME

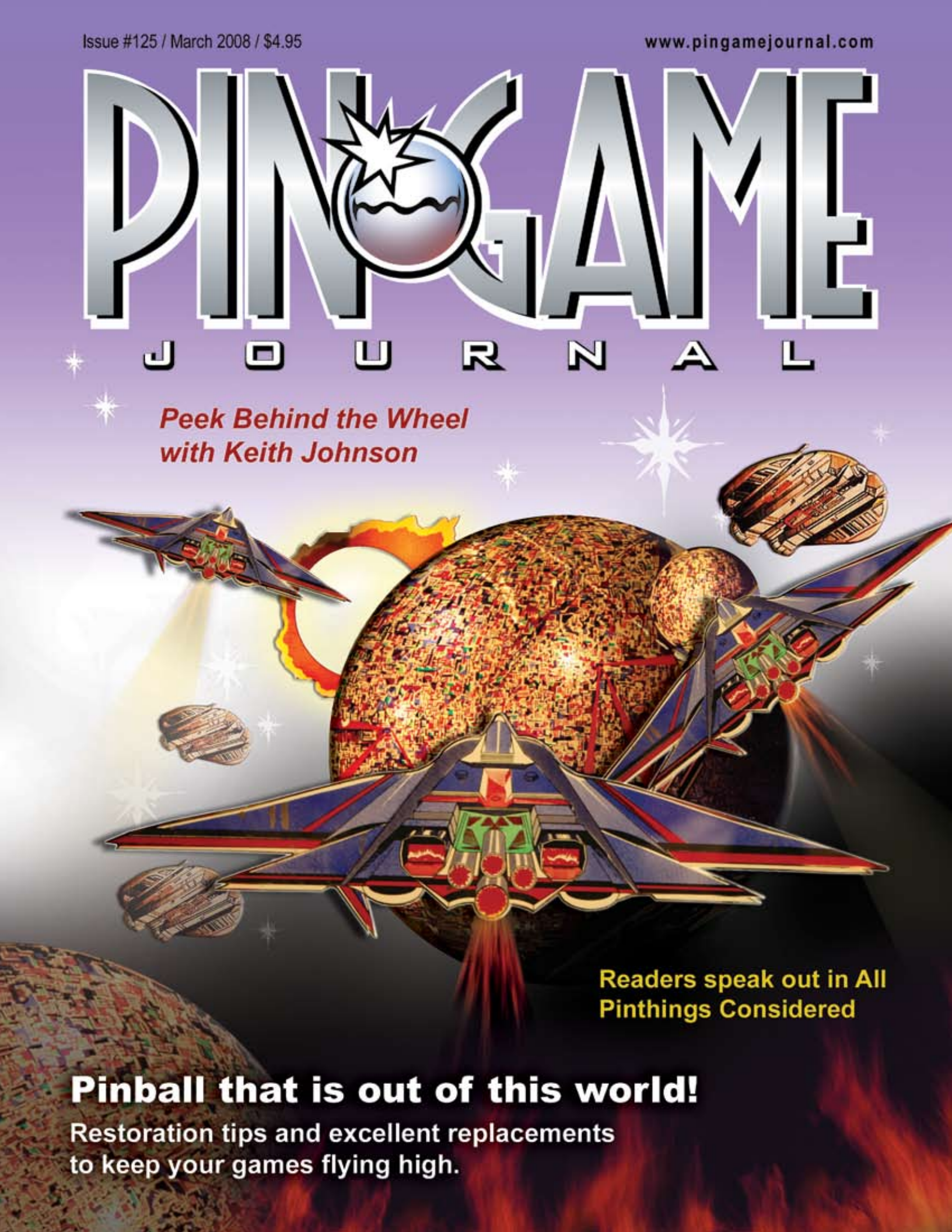
JOURNAL

*Peek Behind the Wheel
with Keith Johnson*

Readers speak out in All
Pinthings Considered

Pinball that is out of this world!

Restoration tips and excellent replacements
to keep your games flying high.



Bob's Your Uncle

by Uncle Bob

Tinted Balls by Matchstick Creations

Pinball machines have silver balls, right? Well yes, apart from the white one in Twilight zone and Glow Balls in Viper. There have been some golden balls (in Gold Ball) (for you Americans this is Posh Spice's nickname for Becks) ... (and also for you



Americans, Posh is Victoria Beckham and Becks is David Beckham who plays soccer for the LA Galaxy) ... (and for Americans yet again, soccer is a game that England can't play very well ... come to think of it there isn't any game England can play well.

(HEY, Uncle Bob! ... Pinball! Remember pinball?--ed)

Oh, yah ... anyway there have been issues in the past with coloured balls because the colour tends to chip and causes wear on the playfield. Also various coloured balls don't seem to hold their looks very long and become grey and faded. When Matchstick Creations announced the availability of black balls everyone was worried about the possibility of the coating chipping off. I know the Korn has done an in depth <http://www.thekorn.net/black/index.php> so I'm not going to repeat the detail only the conclusion. The conclusion was basically that the coating is pretty durable with no obvious difference between standard silver balls and the black balls.

Now how do they look in a game? I tried the black balls in a few games and there wasn't really a great deal of difference. The black isn't really a deep black and this means that there are still reflections like a silver ball but just at a slightly lower level than normal. There are other games that would take advantage of the black ball look better.

Games such as Black Rose, maybe Dracula and I am sure there are others.

For me, the Swirly ball was a much more fun addition. I thought it would fit in well with the Whirlwind theme and it does! The effect is really striking as it catches the strobing from the lamp matrix and this is with incandendent lamps. I can just

imagine there might have to be an epilepsy warning issued if the game was fitted with LEDs! (Look for Uncle Bob's take on one supplier of LEDs for pins in the next PGJ!)

They're fun and interesting and certainly worth a try. I know there are plans to produce webbed balls -- Hmmmm? If only there was a game that has a theme to go with that??? And maybe even a Black edition ... Hmmmm? PGJ



(Check out the growing variety of balls and other products to spice up your game at the Matchstick web site at www.matchstickcreations.com and keep watching the PGJ for more product reviews!)