

Flying High For The New Year

Come Fly With Me

"You just say the words and we'll beat the birds down to Acapulco Bay..."—Sammy Cahn & Jimmy Van Heusen

One suggestion that I often make to workshop attendees is that they can always improve the impact of their photographs by simply changing their point of view. When space and conditions permit, I suggest using a ladder because it gives you the ability to make images from high angles instead of the ubiquitous eye-level shots that everybody else makes. Photographs made from a higher perch let you include the ground, beach, or grass as a background and make your photographs look different from the pack. This month's photographers take that suggestion to new heights by shooting images from airplanes, helicopters, and even a paraglider. And talk about the view...

www.hawkeyeaerial.com

Hawkeye Aerial Photography was founded in 1989 in the San Francisco Bay Area and provides aerial and architectural photography to Northern California. You can visit their terrestrial photography site at: www.hawkeyephoto.com. Images are collected in three galleries, including *Architecture*, *Construction*, and *Aerial Photos*, and as great as their photographs are in these first two—you would be hard pressed to find better—their aerial photographs literally and figuratively soar. The first image in *Aerial Photos* is of one of the towers of the Golden Gate Bridge poking a hole through the fog and is an iconic image of the bridge that could hang in any art gallery in the world. The next shows a more familiar image of the bridge on a clear day with a cruise ship passing beneath it. I know it's a cruise ship because captions are provided along with the big, beautiful images themselves.

There is an incredible image of two guys working on the tip of the Transamerica Pyramid followed by a spectacular nighttime shot of the San Francisco skyline at night showing (what I think is) the Oakland Bridge. Some of the images relate to Hawkeye's work for the construction industry such as before and after shots of Stanford Stadium. Yet their view of the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park dramatically shows how architectural photography and aerial imagery can be blended into the kind of striking photograph that you couldn't capture any other way. Most of these locations were photographed from a helicopter, which Hawkeye says allows for many different angles of view. All I can add is "and how!"

