



Member of Photographic Society of America

Tri-State In Focus

Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana

JUNE COMPETITION RESULTS

Subject: Open

Tyro

1st Mark Kahles	Rusty Water Pump Handle
2nd Gail Penner	Rake Set
3rd Margie Stigler	Contrasts in Rides
SD Mark Kahles	Celestial Geans

Accomplished

1 st Dale Voelker	Wooden Machinery
2nd Jerry Carpenter	Reflections of the Past
3rd Jeannette Kennedy	Retired
4th Richard Jones	Hydro Electric Generators
5th Margaret Jones	The Old Loom
SD Jeanette Kennedy	American Gas

Nature

Tyro

1 st Mark Kahles	In The Fast Lane
2 nd Steve Statkus	Eye of the Storm
3 rd Gail Penner	Sky's a Fire
4 th Margie Steigler	Tree at Sundown
SD Steve Statkus	Shazam

Accomplished

1 st Garry Walter	Pair of Young Barn Owls
2 nd Caroline Statkus	Romantic Flowers
3 rd Richard Jones	Osprey with Catch of the Day
3 rd Jerry Carpenter	Bleeding Hearts Weeping
5 th Patsy Ratterman	Early Morning

2005 Tri-State Photographic Society Officers & Chairpersons

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Penny Gates 513-232-8807

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Wilda Everman 859-781-2997

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4311 Mogen Nielsen 513-829-5739-

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Margie Stigler 513-561-5444

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Points/Awards

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Programs

Virginia Cox 513-231-1340

Don Wiedeman 859-635-2228

PSA

John Devine 513-683-4311

REFRESHMENTS FOR JULY: Jeannette Kennedy & Wilda Everman

FROM THE EDITORS' DESK:

This month we have a guest author/adventurer who challenges us sedentary photogs to go where few have gone and achieve new heights. Joan Lee's winning entry in the Ritz Camera Contest "Capture Your World 2004" follows. So snap on that safety harness, grab your boarding pass and camera bag and let's go see what an adventure photographer does on the spur of the moment. Check out "Standing on Top of the Golden Gate Bridge."

2005 COMPETITION TOPICS

MONTH PICTORIAL/NATURE

Jul. Prints/Waterfall
 Aug. Gates/Butterflies-Moths
 Sep. Open/Prints
 Oct. Shadows/Open
 Nov. Prints/Show Motion
 Dec. Wideangle/Open

2006 Competition Topics

MONTH PICTORIAL/NATURE

Jan. Open/Leaves
 Feb. Faces/Open
 Mar. Prints/Animal Close-up
 Apr. Ohio River/Clouds
 May. Open/Prints
 Jun. Five/Open
 Jul. Prints/Turmoil
 Aug. Motion/Pink
 Sep. Open/Prints
 Oct. Stone Structures/Open
 Nov. Prints/Ferns
 Dec. Moonlit/Open

COMING ATTRACTIONS: Field Trips & Other Photo Opportunities:

July 16 Kroger/Fuji Film Day with the Reds. Gates open at 5:10. Come with camera and get on the field for photos with the Reds. Contact Margie Stigler.

EXHIBITION OPPORTUNITY: Kennedy Heights Arts Center - **WHERE ARTS COME TO LIFE**

The creative eye captures a moment of whimsy -- introspection -- sheer natural beauty, composes a palette of light, shadow, artful design to make art.

A CALL TO ARTISTS: The Kennedy Heights Arts Center is announcing a call to all interested area artists to submit their work for an exhibition of photographic art. We are encouraging work from aspiring, emerging and established photographic artists alike that captures the essence of their technique and their love for this art form. Will be featured at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center from August 13 th 2005 through September 24 2005. All work must be framed and ready to hang and must be available for purchase at the Kennedy Heights Arts Center.

Please submit representative work via e-mail as JPEG images or via mail or in person as Photographs or slides to:

Richard J. Cooke, Exhibition Director
 Kennedy Heights Arts Center
 6546 Montgomery Road
 Cincinnati, OH 45213 ~
 (513) 924-0307 ~

exhibitions@kennedvarts.com ~

For further info, contact Virginia Cox.

TBD **Water Works** with Carl Shattix

TBD **Theodore Barry Park**, Margie Stigler

Sept 24 Hanover/Madison In. Fly in of antique aircraft at Lee Bottom Airport and the same weekend is the Madison Art Fair. Great opportunity to try some ground to flight photos and eat chili at a Grass Strip Airport, as well as buy some good art work. Plan on spending the weekend. Book now because the rooms go fast. Contact Steve Statkus

STANDING ON TOP OF THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE:



In the fall of 1996, I got a call from my late twin sister, Jean, my lifelong adventure partner. We are both adrenaline addicts seeking out new and exciting experiences especially in nature. I always loved talking to Jean but this time was special. She asked, "How would you like to go to the top of the Golden Gate Bridge with me?" Jean said that her husband Jim's friend Lance, in charge of Communications for the Bridge, could get us up with the proper criminal check. Well, I couldn't buy my airline ticket from Ohio fast enough.

We had to be prepared for all kinds of weather since San Francisco is usually foggy, windy and cold. A lot of tourists are very surprised when they come to San Francisco dressed for sunny California weather only to be frozen by the cold winds blasting through the Bay's very cold ocean current. I have worn Down jackets to tour San Francisco in summer. We were fortunate to have a nice day for our adventure.

We arrived at the Bridge headquarters on a wonderfully clear day in November, met Lance, signed release forms absolving the Bridge from any mishaps, and were issued hardhats. Yeah, I laughed nervously at the thought of free falling 500 feet to the hard asphalt below or 746 feet to the Ocean: the hard hat would surely save me! Adrenaline hadn't kicked in yet.

We were given a tour of the building and watched several monitors that look for traffic problems and also for "Jumpers" trying to commit suicide. Countless people have ended their lives in the icy waters of San Francisco Bay. When a Jumper is spotted, someone tries to talk the person out of the last, fatal step. Water is amazingly solid when a body hurls down over 200 feet at maximum velocity. Interesting as Bridge operations are, we couldn't wait to get to the Tower.

Finally, we were taken to the little scooter carts (they wouldn't let us walk) and whisked to the Orange steel Tower door.

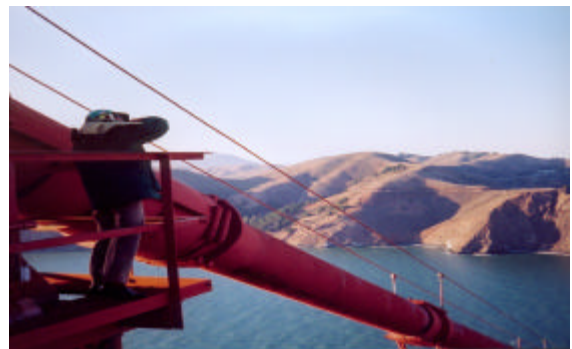
Tourists eyed us curiously. I beamed with excitement that could be tasted and my body was tingling from every nerve

was on a high that I can feel now as I type. The door clanged open and Jean posed beside the Bridge statistics painted inside. Jean's husband, Jim, generously gave up his spot so that my husband, Paikky, could go to the top. To this day, Jim has never gone up and will probably never get the chance since 9-11.

The four of us barely squeezed in the tiny, rattly, elevator even with our camera equipment held above heads. We slowly lurched upward inside the Tower leg to a platform about 30 feet from the top. One by one we crawled up the vertical metal ladder feeling like we would fall off backward at any time and then flopped over the edge onto the Tower.

The cold air hit my face at a good clip, sobering me to the fact that the Bridge was **moving!!** I could barely stand up from fear. I was as high as the falcons fly. Curiosity finally straightened my quivering body to the awesome views all around me. It took about 20 minutes before I left the safety and windshield of the Tower. I was the last coward of our group to venture out into the open spaces to the awesome views, seen by so few. Lance did say that some of the City's higher-ups arranged some evening excursions with the opposite sex evidenced by empty Champagne bottles but the Bridge authorities put a stop on that. I'm glad my walking wasn't unstable from drink!

Fear really struck when I rounded the Tower and hesitantly stepped onto the open grating with views all the way down to the Bay. Have you ever walked across a clear glass walkway like the Science museum's have to show caves or fish swimming and your stomach lurches and you grab for something to stop you from falling? That's how I felt on the grates but this time a fall was a real possibility! The walkway around the towers was nothing but open grids with



gaps on the sides that

seemed big enough for a semi – or me- to slip through. "When will this Bridge stop moving?". I braced myself on the thin rails but then lost myself in all the fantastic views and photo shots surrounding me. One of my

favorite pictures is near dusk with my husband lining up a photo of the golden hills in the setting sun on this

grate. Fading sunlight dappled his grate in the fall form like a glowing halo.

We were blessed with a rare and absolutely crystal clear day. San Francisco blazed. As beautiful as San Francisco is on the ground, from the Tower it looked like a concrete jungle. I know there are trees and plants in the city, but from this distance, the concrete buildings just take over the scene. I took some token photos of the city then concentrated on the Bridge's architecture, Golden Gate Park's rolling hills, San Francisco Bay and the Pacific. Sailboats tacked across the water far below looking like a child's bathtub toy. Freighters chugged under the Bridge toward the city or the sea. Alcatraz sparkled in the cold Bay. Cars heading home rocked the Bridge with their passage. Waves battered the Bridge footings. I

looked over the precarious edge behind a Tower and then sat down to take a photo of my foot hanging over the edge like I was stepping out on the cable. The massive cables behind me rose over the Towers on a saddle of weighty metal to plunge down toward the sea. I snapped photos of this incredible engineering marvel. And immersed myself in the scene and pondered the long history of the area.

The Golden Gate Bridge almost didn't happen and took a lot of political maneuvering to get the funding. Fort Point, nestled under the Bridge, protected the entryway from enemies in the 1800's. Crissy Field was one of the first military airfields. Golden Gate Park, across the bay, still has a lot of decaying battlements left over from the world wars. I have used those battlements many times for photos for people who just want familiar memories of their visits, not terrifying plunge photos from the top of the Bridge. Go figure.

The distance from Tower to Tower above the road is 90 feet, very narrow with flimsy looking safety railings. We were not clipped to the railing or anything but had to trust our shoes for good traction as the wind pushed and the Bridge swayed. My knees knocked the first time I crossed the span to check out all the spectacular views surrounding me. It was late afternoon and the setting sun cast golden light on the already beautiful Bridge. The shadows gradually lengthened and outlined the waves crashing on the shore.

Three hours on the Bridge just flew by. As dusk enveloped the city, Crissy Field and Fort Point faded into darkness. The sun ducked behind the city and car headlights became a beacon on the roadway. San Francisco was almost dark, city lights blinked on, colors turned toward gray. Reluctantly we headed through the Tower door to a very somber elevator ride down that seemed slower now. That afternoon, in magical light, I felt such a spiritual connection to the Bridge and the natural surroundings that make San Francisco the destination of so many travelers

Jim met us at the Bridge headquarters and we drove to our favorite restaurant in SF, Brother's Korean Restaurant; at 4128 Geary Blvd., SF, Phone 415-387-7991. We ate our fill and recounted our great adventure on top of the Golden Gate Bridge to Jim. Of all the years Lance has worked on the Bridge, this was the first time he photographed the Bridge.

I not only came back with precious memories with my late twin, Jean, but also totally awesome photographs. We shot rolls of film. One of my photographs from the top of the Golden Gate Bridge showing sweeping cables toward the roadway and crashing surf, recently won First Place in the Scenic division of Ritz Camera's 2004 "Capture Your World" contest. To see the photo go to; www.Ritzcamera.com, click on \$40,000 **Photo Contest** at the bottom of the Home page, then click **Scenic**. My photo is on the right.

I would love to get on top of the Golden Gate Bridge Tower again but security is so tight with the Terrorists that probably won't happen. Rats! Maybe I can get to the top of some other bridge. It won't be the same without my twin but I'm sure she will be with me in spirit guiding my eye to the best shots. She was an excellent artist and photographer.

Joan Lee

For more information on the Golden Gate Bridge go to; www.goldengatebridge.org

Something to think about:

Over the last several years my family has spent well over 10K at B&H Photo, well over 5k in the last two months. Last weekend my daughter's brand new D70S quit solid during a wedding she was shooting. A backup was at hand so shooting continued. This camera was less than one month old but would not be exchanged by B&H because it was past the two week period B&H has established as "**their policy**". My policy has changed as a result of this stupidity and narrow mindedness. In the future and whenever possible, I will buy locally and pay the higher price for customer service if customer service does exist at the store. I will share this experience with other photographers in the hope they will see the value of keeping local businesses in business when the giant competition comes knocking. Ed.

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Tri-State in Focus

March 2005

TRI-STATE IN FOCUS

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