

# January 2021

## 2 EDITOR'S LETTER

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## 5 THE JOURNAL

People, places and things from around the state, including Peak Scents, a Flagstaff company that sells "skin care for the wild-hearted"; a short history of the longest flight in history; and a hexagon-based home in Tucson that might be the most idiosyncratic lodging experience in Arizona.

## 18 RAREFIED AIR

Climbing is nothing new in the American Southwest — ancient tribes were doing it centuries ago — but the Tomasi brothers moved into rarefied air when they hit their goal of climbing 100 summits in the Grand Canyon. In the beginning, their motivation was just about the numbers, but, like the Canyon itself, they've evolved, and now they're climbing for those rare moments of pure solitude.

By Allison Noble

Photographs by John Burcham

## 24 HEAD OVER HEELS AT THE GRAND CANYON

John Hance, the Kolb brothers, Eric Gueissaz ... the Grand Canyon has attracted all kinds of characters over the years. This is the story of two more: "White Mountain" and Dama Smith, the stolid-as-a-rock park ranger and his smart, sometimes sassy wife, who fell in love and lived epic lives against the widescreen grandeur of a still-untamed Arizona.

By Matt Jaffe

## 30 GRAND CANYON: EARTH AND SKY

Adam Schallau has been photographing Arizona's world-famous natural wonder since 2008. "I seek out intimate scenes," he says, "waiting for the fleeting moments when light and atmosphere combine to create a painterly quality that vanishes as quickly as it's revealed." As if shooting the Grand Canyon wasn't challenging enough.

A Portfolio by Adam Schallau

## 42 AT THE END OF THEIR ROPES

Children's toys, cameras, cellphones, sunglasses ... even trash cans and traffic cones are dropped or tossed into the Grand Canyon. There's a lot of rubbish below the rim, but there would be a lot more if it weren't for the Arizona Mountaineering Club, which conducts an annual cleanup. Unfortunately, no matter how much stuff these dedicated volunteers take out, they'll never get to all of it.

By Noah Austin

Photographs by John Burcham

## 46 ON THE EDGE OF SOMETHING BIG

After decades as an ordinary gift shop inside one of the South Rim's most extraordinary structures, Desert View Watchtower is entering a new era as the centerpiece for the Desert View Inter-Tribal Cultural Heritage Site, a collaborative project between the National Park Service, Grand Canyon Conservancy, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and a working group consisting of members of Arizona's 11 American Indian tribes with cultural and spiritual connections to the Canyon.

By Matt Jaffe

## 52 SCENIC DRIVE

Lake Havasu City to Parker: From London Bridge to the deepest dam in the world, this easy drive along Arizona's West Coast offers a lesson in engineering, with a lot of scenic beauty in between.

By Noah Austin

Photographs by Laurence Parent

## 54 HIKE OF THE MONTH

Hidden Valley Trail: There are 29 trails in South Mountain Park, including Hidden Valley, which offers a long-distance look at downtown Phoenix and a tight squeeze known as Fat Man's Pass.

By Robert Stieve

Photographs by Joel Hazelton

## 56 WHERE IS THIS?



● POINTS OF INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE

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► Light from the rising sun streams past the buttes of the Pusch Ridge Wilderness, part of the Santa Catalina Mountains, near Tucson. *Jack Dykinga*

■ FUJIFILM GFX 50S, 1/2000 SEC, F/10, ISO 100, 200 MM LENS

FRONT COVER: A winter storm clears from the Grand Canyon on New Year's Day, as viewed from the South Rim.

*Adam Schallau*

■ NIKON D800E, 1/6 SEC, F/16, ISO 100, 26 MM LENS

BACK COVER: Fog shrouds aspen trunks in the Flagstaff area's Kachina Wilderness. *Gurinder Singh*

■ NIKON D800, 0.3 SEC, F/22, ISO 800, 85 MM LENS



# ***FLIGHT PATTERNS***

*The abstract nature of blackbird murmurations. A PORTFOLIO BY JACK DYKINGA ■ TEXT BY RUTH RUDNER*

■ In predawn light, yellow-headed blackbirds take flight in Tucson. "They're rising from the unlikeliest of places: a gravel pit lining the Santa Cruz River drainage," photographer Jack Dykinga says. "Their cries become a cacophony as they prepare to take off. Then, en masse to confuse waiting hawks, they streak across the sky to feed in the agricultural fields of Marana, north of Tucson."

**SAGUARO:** A tall columnar cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*) native to Arizona and Mexico that bears white flowers and may attain a height of up to 50 feet.

# ARIZONA

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# SAGUAROS

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**May 2010**

**Jack Dykinga**

"Jack shot this photo from a very low angle on the Little Colorado River, so the color of the water really dominates," Kida says. "He used the sunlit rocks in the background to form a juxtaposition between warm and cool tones, and he stepped the viewer through the scene using the stones in the river. It all adds up to a very effective image."

