

MAY/JUNE 2014

HIGHROADS

FOR AAA MEMBERS



A SHORE THING 7 SPLASHES IN THE SOUTHWEST

5 SUMMER GETAWAYS | FINLAND'S FINEST CITIES | CROSSOVER CRAZE

BY SUSAN LANIER-GRAHAM

7 SOUTHWESTERN WATERING HOLES

Take a refreshing dip in one of these nearby destinations

When most people think of the Southwest, they think desert and cacti — maybe even coyotes and the Grand Canyon — but, just like everywhere else, we love our water recreation, too.

Since the earliest times, folks in the West have tried to control the water and find ways to store it for later.

And, as a result, this region is home to several massive dams and lakes, which are ideal for water sports.

Between Arizona, which is home to the two largest man-made lakes in the United States, and the Southern California coast, water lovers can boat, fish, water ski, wakeboard, raft, kayak, and paddleboard their way to refreshment in the Old West.

Experience Lake Powell onboard a houseboat

Photo courtesy of AHAMARIK Parks and Destinations

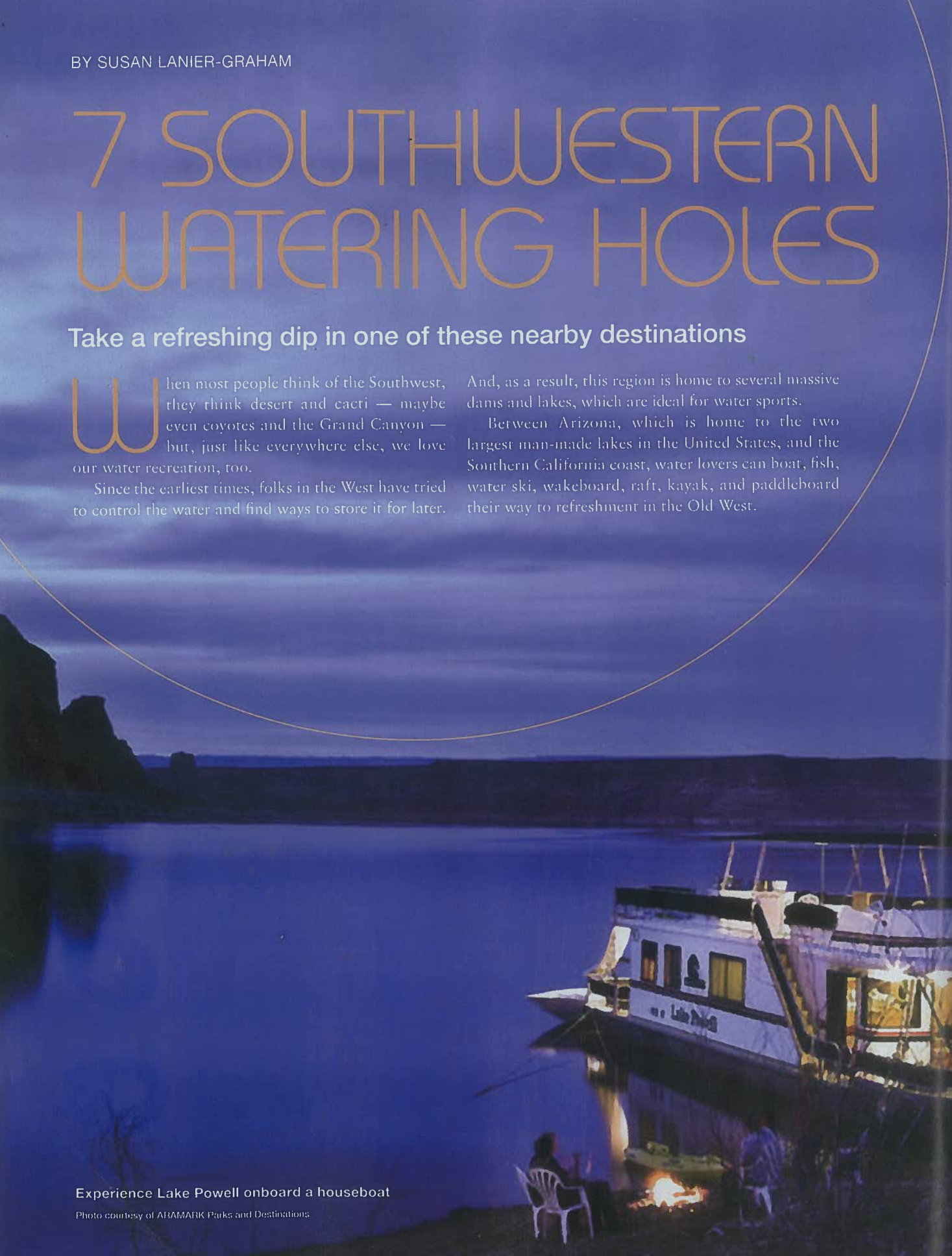




Photo courtesy of San Diego CVB

Take a paddleboard out on Mission Bay

6 Mission Bay

Geography: In 1958, the city of San Diego created Mission Bay Aquatic Park as a place where people could sail, swim, fish, and water ski. Here, you'll find the Paradise Point Resort & Spa, a beachfront location that provides travelers with easy access to all of San Diego's attractions.

Water sports: The AAA Four Diamond Paradise Point has an on-site marina where you can explore Mission Bay via sailboats (with a skipper, if necessary), speedboats, personal watercraft, kayaks, and paddleboards. Sign up for the three-hour Paradise Surf Academy to learn to shred the waves like a local or take a scenic bay cruise during the summer months.

If You Go

Lake Mead

Get the current conditions and directions at nps.gov/lake/index.htm. To check on boat rentals, visit boatinglakemead.com.

Glen Canyon Recreation Area, the Colorado River, and Lake Powell

Get information on Lake Powell, river activities on the Colorado River, and current conditions at nps.gov/glca/index.htm. Find out more about Lake Powell Resorts & Marinas at lakepowell.com. To check on available river trips, visit Wilderness River Adventures at riveradventures.com.

Lake Havasu

For information on what to do in Lake Havasu, boating events, and suggested itineraries, visit golakehasvu.com.

Saguaro Lake

To get the latest information on Saguaro Lake and FAQs, visit saguarulakemarina.com.

Mission Bay

For information on the marina at Paradise Point Resort & Spa on Mission Bay, visit paradisepoint.com.

San Diego Bay

To find out more about Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina, visit sheratonsandiego.com.

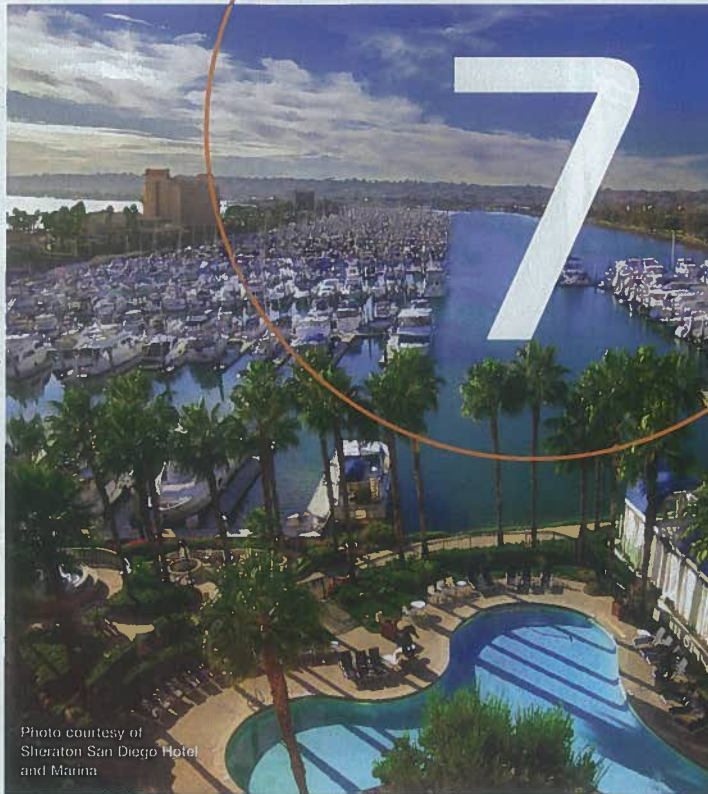


Photo courtesy of Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina

An aerial view of Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina

San Diego Bay

Geography: Since 1969, the iconic San Diego-Coronado Bridge has spanned the 12-mile-long San Diego Bay — a natural harbor and deep water port that offers 34 miles of scenic waterfront dotted with restaurants, shops, hotels, attractions, parks, and marinas that reside in seven distinct areas. San Diego also has a rich naval history visitors can explore by touring the aircraft carrier *USS Midway*, which celebrates its 10th anniversary as a museum this June.

Water sports: When you fly into San Diego, you can be on the water in a matter of minutes if you head to the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina. Located across the street from San Diego International Airport, the Sheraton offers water sports (May – September) in its private, picturesque marina. Here you'll find everything from boats and personal watercraft to paddleboards and canoes. For a relaxing day on the water, book a spot on the *Jada*, a 1934 Vintage Sailing Yawl. This magnificently preserved wooden sailing ship can take up to 20 people out on the bay. As you sit back and feel the breeze, check out the sights on Coronado Island and the downtown San Diego waterfront.

SUSAN LANIER-GRAHAM is a Phoenix-based freelance travel writer who likes to wander the world looking for wow moments.