

Subject: I survived Stonewall Mountain (Trip Report)  
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Mojave Desert Rodent Reporter On The Run

I and three other hardy souls made the (at times near vertical) climb to a legal vantage point in the Stonewall Mountain range. Glenn took time from his radio broadcast preparations to be the official gate opener, military salute giver, and bon voyage escort when the forlorn party of four trudged up the canyon. The other hikers were AKA Zero, Tom, and the ever so nice Geri (SP?), wife of Tom. Glenn and Tom wore last year's 6-color "Desert Storm" cammo, I showed off my DOD surplus non-pc three-color cammo, and Geri and AKA Zero wore more sensible civvies. My outfit was declared the first serious challenge to the wardrobe of Agent X! Sort of like Halloween a little early. 8\*)

[[Gene Huff comment](#)]

If you like scenic wonders and desert wildlife, this is a grand place to go! We spotted a bighorn sheep and also the bones/remains of two bighorns and a mountain lion. Geri had a fantastic eye for noticing little bits of nature such as wildflowers and odd-shaped stones. The Stonewall Spring site must be really great when the snow melts and the water roars out of the mountainside. There was also a tumble-down log cabin and a couple of adits. Adit was a new word for me and is a name for a horizontal mining shaft. Glenn poked his head in one, perhaps to seek the Swiss Mountain Bat.....

Tom set a blistering pace and his experience as a hiker was obvious. I, on the other hand, have only recently been preparing for such a hike and deliberately (if stupidly) carried a well-loaded backpack. It was rather nice at the top to be enjoying a ham sandwich, chocolate pudding, fruit drink, and a change of socks though! I also lugged my GPS, binoculars, 35mm camera, 6 qts of H2O, heavy jacket, scanner, and first aid gear. I paid a price for my choice but I felt like a Speshul For-sees Dude with my big pack, selection of gear, and the fact that I actually made the round trip alive.

I preprogrammed a lot of frequencies into the scanner and had some good traffic on some of them. I will post those and any relevent info in another message.

Now you are asking; "Dammit! What Did You See?"

I was hoping to login here and find a message from Tom that would have already revealed just what transpired. As he was first to the top I would like for him to make the announcement. I can say that conspiracy theories will spring anew, skeptics will pooh-pooh, but only those who hike to 8100 feet can truly view what we viewed.

I would like to thank my companions for their tolerance of my plodding pace. I learned much and am not too sore nor blistered of foot. AKA Zero came with party favors in the form of bright orange mail bags labeled "DOD PRIORITY MAIL". We had a roaring fire and many tales that were swapped Friday night. The stars were glorious and the temps were low but I hope to make this trek many more times.

Jim

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