

TIKABOO HIKE, JULY 22, 1995

Everyone in the world is invited to a free public hike to Tikaboo Peak, an 8000-foot mountain overlooking the secret Groom Lake air base (and offering a fine view in other directions as well). We will meet at 9:00 am, Saturday, July 22, at milepoint LN 32.2 on US-93, about 86 miles north of Las Vegas. The hike is sponsored by the Area 51 Research Center.

This is a repeat of the May 13 hike, which was uneventful but suffered from dismal weather. Barring thunderstorms, the weather this time should be ideal. At this elevation, the high temperature will probably be in the comfortable 70-90 degree range. The base itself is 25 miles to the west, and only a few hangars are visible with the naked eye, but a telescope can bring out most of what could be seen from the closer Freedom Ridge viewpoint, which is now closed. The terrain on the Tikaboo trail is pleasantly forested and offers a satisfying hike even without the view. (Tikaboo Peak is in the Pahrangat Range near Badger Mountain, south of NV-375. Location: 115d22'W longitude, 37d21'W latitude. Shown on the Badger Spring, NV, 7-1/2 min. USGS topo. map.)

This is planned as a day trip, but some of us may be backpacking to the top and spending Saturday night there. If you join us, you should be prepared for possible temps in the 40s. If inclement weather threatens, we will camp at the base instead of the summit, but we will probably attempt the day hike regardless of the weather.

WARNING: This is a strenuous two hour hike (and one hour back). It should not be attempted by people who are not in good physical shape. Experienced hikers or people who get regular aerobic exercise you should have no trouble, but this is not a hike for couch potatoes. The vertical distance traveled is about 1000 feet and the hiking distance is less than two miles, but at 7000-8000 feet every step can be exhausting for those who are used to sea level.

If you are coming from Las Vegas, you need to leave town around 7 am to arrive at the meeting point in time, and you probably won't get back until 6 or 7 pm. To reach the meeting point from Las Vegas, go north on I-15 (Salt Lake City direction) for about 20 miles to the US-93 exit, then go north on US-93 for 66.8 miles to milepoint LN 32.2. (Mileposts are marked every mile by small white signs on the side of the road.) The meeting point is at a minor dirt road (marked only by a stop sign) between the Lower and Upper Pahrangat Lakes in the Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge. This location is about 0.3 mile past the well-marked entrance to the refuge headquarters. If you arrive later than 9 am, you can try to catch up with us by following the dirt road west from here and watching for yellow flags at any intersection. (The "No Vehicles" signs at the entrance are deceptive and do not refer to the main

dirt road.)

After meeting at the highway, we will drive west on a good dirt road (suitable for any vehicle if you don't mind a lot of bumps) about 25 miles to Badger Spring. 4WD vehicles can proceed about 0.5 mi beyond this point; otherwise you can carpool or walk to the trailhead.

Several of the world-famous Groom Lake Interceptors are expected to attend, including Agent X, Psychospy, The Minister and Tom & Jeri. This location is public land many miles from the military border, so encounters with authorities are unlikely. Feel free to bring a camera, although you can't capture any of the secret base without a telephoto lens.

CAMPING: If you plan to spend the night at the summit, you need to be prepared for nighttime temperatures in the 40s: We suggest a medium-duty sleeping bag, ground cloth, thermal underwear, wool cap and sweater. Some people may prefer to camp at their cars near the trailhead, where it will be warmer and less windy and requires no backpacking. (Note: Backpacking requires great endurance; it is only for those who are in top form.) For Friday night, there is a free and scenic campground (no services) along the shore of Upper Pahrangat Lake (a lake with real water!) about a half mile north of the meeting point on US-93. The Tikaboo trailhead near Badger Spring also makes a good camping spot, but unless you have the "Area 51 Viewer's Guide," you may want to save this location for Saturday night when you know where it is.

OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS. The meeting point is 55 miles from Rachel, so a visit there may be difficult. There are two motels in Alamo (both at 702-725-3371) about 5 miles north of the meeting point. Free swimming is available at the BLM (unfenced) portion of Ash Springs (natural bath-water temperature, about 13 miles north of the meeting point across from the Texaco gas station). If you are coming from Southern California, the casino hotels at Stateline are a reasonable place to stay. Rooms on Friday and Saturday nights are about \$32 (including two free tickets on the world's highest roller coaster), but reservations are important (800-367-7383).

BRING. Hikers need to be prepared for extremes in temperature: Bring both shorts in case it is hot and a windbreaker and hat in case it is windy at the summit. You'll also need long pants and a warm jacket if you plan to spend the night. Good sun protection, including sun screen, is important. Sturdy hiking shoes are essential, and you need to bring at least 3 quarts of liquid for the hike--and more if you plan to spend the night. You also need to bring enough food for however long you wish to stay, although Oscar Meyer Wieners will be provided for roasting over the fire. Telescopes are essential for viewing the base, but there should be enough of them among the group that not everyone needs to bring one.

DISCLAIMER. You are responsible for your own safety on this outing. Organizers of this hike accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or injury.

Cellular phones work fine at the highway meeting point, at the summit and scattered areas in-between. We will have one with us, so if you have any problems on the day of hike, call that phone at 702-493-6126 (July 22 only!).

No reservations are necessary for this hike, but it would be useful if we knew how many people to expect. If you can, please let us know you are coming by sending an email message to psychosp@[aol.com](mailto:psychosp@aol.com) or calling Glenn Campbell at 702-729-2648.

###