

TIKABOO HIKE APRIL 19, 1996

Everyone in the world is invited to a free public hike of 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, Friday, April 19, 1996, 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 date coincides with the E.T. Highway unveiling - to fill the day between the Fox extravaganza on Thursday and Rachel Day (the town's annual celebration) on Saturday. Weather at this time of year could be pleasant or volatile. There probably won't be any snow, but wind at the top could be a problem. We will be holding other Tikaboo hikes on May 4 and a Saturday in July, when weather will probably be better.

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 smokers or 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 evening. 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 Pahrnagat Lakes in the Pahrnagat 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, but there is no guarantee you will find us.

After meeting at the highway, we will drive west on a good dirt road (suitable for any vehicle) about 25 miles to Badger Spring. 4WD vehicles can proceed about 0.5 mi beyond this point.

Several of the world-famous Groom Lake Interceptors are expected to attend. 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.

BRING. Hikers should expect mild temperatures on the hike but possibly brutal winds at the top. Sturdy hiking shoes are essential, and you need to bring at least 3 quarts of liquid for the hike. 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 and at the summit but not in-between. We will have one with us, so if you have any problems on the day of hike, try that phone at 702-592-9020 (that day only!).

If you plan to come on this hike, you should contact the Research Center the day before at 702-729-2648 in case anything changes. Cancellation is a possibility if the weather is bad or interest evaporates.

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