



Saturday June 5-6, 2021

Big Lake Car Camp & Day Hike

Approximately 235 Miles and 5.5 Hours from Central Phoenix "stack",

Type: See Desc.	Max Rating/Points: 3/1	Elev. Change: 400	Length: Max 8 miles
Start Time: 11:00	Duration: 5 Hr	Max No of Part: N/A	Last Scouted: June '20

- Major Hike:
- Cross-Country:
- Exploratory:
- Individual Effort:
- Options:
- Pass/Fees Rqd.:

	Coordinator	Alternate
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Required Equipment: Lunch, trail snacks, enough water for 5 hours of hiking, sturdy boots, hiking poles, camera, layered clothing, sunscreen, moleskin, and hat. Rani gear?

Recommended Equipment: Whatever you want to camp in. Some stay in a tent, others in a RV and some stay in either Show Low area, Greer or even Springerville in hotels. Should be great weather as it is before the monsoon storms. There is a local store at the lake where you can buy a fishing license and rent a boat.

Cautions and Special Preparations: The altitude is around 9000 feet.

Description: I plan on going up to Big Lake on Thursday and will stay in the Rainbow Campground. I will let everyone know if they are closed for any reason. Due to the length of the drive, if you can get up there on Friday, you will have a much more relaxing weekend. However, I have gone up early Saturday and returned late Sunday several times. You don't have to hike to enjoy this event. Just come on up and enjoy the scenery. This area of the White Mtns is one of my favorite areas in Arizona. Nearby Mt. Baldy is the second highest peak in Arizona. The roads are paved in Rainbow Campground and the bathrooms have running water, but not hot. There are several campgrounds near Big Lake. See the link below for a website for the area's campgrounds and things to do. Firewood is available. Drinking water will be available in the campgrounds. The camping fees vary per campground. The payment is either in cash or a check. Camping in Rainbow is first come, first served, but there are some sites that can be reserved.

<http://www.camparizona.com/Campsites/WhiteMtnsCampsites/WhiteMtnsCampsites.htm> The hike will be on Saturday. We will meet at 11:00 AM near the entrance to Rainbow campground at the Visitor Center and carpool to the trailhead depending on what everyone wants to do. We will be hiking the Indian Springs Trail #627. The trailhead is located near the Rainbow Campground. We can earlier if all that sign up want to. I've set the start time later than normal to allow for those who might want to drive up on Saturday AM. An earlier start means cooler temperatures and better chances of seeing critters. Hikers have the option of turning around at any time as this is a loop trail. Just hiking a mile or two is enjoyable. The terrain is a heavily forested pine and aspen area at an elevation of 9000 feet. Much literature about this area is available on the internet. There are a few signs of the big fire in the area a number of years ago. Most of the hike is very flat. Tom Isham and I spent may a weekend at Big Lake and there may be a brief recognition of his life and the good times

we had camping, hiking and fishing. Some of Tom's ashes may also be spread. I'll have to check with Joyce on this item.

Driving Directions: From central Phoenix, there are 2 ways to get to Show Low and are about the same driving time. Either through Payson or through Globe. From Show Low, follow SR 260 through Pinetop and Lakeside for about 35 miles to its junction with SR 273. This is the turnoff to Sunrise Ski Resort. Turn right and drive about 17 miles to the Big Lake turnoff on the right. Rainbow campground will be the third available left turn, past the RV dump station and the visitor center. Texting is available at Big Lake, but cell phone coverage is spotty at best. If there are questions, call and leave a message and I'll try and return your calls during the day sometime. I may be fishing at the lake.