

Adventurers!

Yes while you were watching Tiger (etc) or perhaps “picnic-ing” I was adventuring... Jeep to the top of Mauna Kea, **13,900'** WooHoo!

The signs are “holed” because the wind blows so hard that non-holed signs tend to get blown away. Regarding “use your 4wd”... Ha! The unpaved road starts at 8,000' and it is very “washboard” (I couldn't keep the Jeep under control above 20mph, only “stable/safe” at 15mph). But the dirt-washboard is only **3** miles, after that smooth-tar... Why? Because the ***tour companies lobby to keep the washboard, so “tours” are the “only safe way to the top”***. Total bs!



At the 13,000' summit is the array of telescopes... Above the Jeep is the United Kingdom IR telescope.



Below is the Keck observatory, two 10-meter telescopes operated by CalTech and the University of California



Below is the Gemini 8.1 meter optical telescope, operated by a consortium of 7 countries.



Below is the U.Hawaii 2.2 meter optical telescope.



Below (left) is the CalTech sub-millimeter telescope (whatever %^%\$%

That is!) and (center) the Maxwell 15-meter submillimeter telescope operated by the UK, Netherlands, and Canada.



I like these guys... One of eight submillimeter-arrays ([linked](#)).... Neato!



Oh... Do you see anybody else around? Me neither. It's 3pm
And nobody-here-but-me. Cold! 44F! Proof (Jeep dash info).

Note it was 80F at the shoreline...



If you need more Mauna Kea info...

<http://www.ifa.hawaii.edu/mko/>

Note that not all of the observatories are listed at the above site...

Here's my favorite (Cal Tech submillimeter telescope)...



Really “surface of the moon” up there. The Subaru telescope operated by Japan...



Heading down, this pic at 12,000' (note I'm above the cloud-tops)...



Proof I was here! Another Jeep on the way up stopped, and I asked if they might please take my picture... This out the window of their Jeep...



Looking into central Hawaii (the island) from about the 10,000' point...



Well that's all for today! On Monday I'll arrange to rent a Harley, for a trip up to the gliderport on Tuesday; I did phone-contact the glider-club, who will be operating on Tuesday and ***I'll be there!***

Cheers!

Paul P.