

December 8, 2007

Seven Swan Rangers hiked the Broken Leg Trail into Wolf Creek, hiking up onto a cliff to get out of the shadow of Broken Leg Mountain and into the sun for lunch. It was a beautifully crisp and sunny day with almost no snow on the trail prior to the Wolf Creek crossing.

Hiking during freezing weather, while the ground is still free of snow, provides a wonderful display of frost and ice columns as warmth and moisture flee the earth into the cold air! Hikes like this Saturday provide natural wonders on both the micro and landscape scale!

While we haven't needed them yet, it will soon be a good idea to bring your snowshoes or cross-country skis along for the Saturday outings, while still being prepared to hike in suitable boots. It simply has to turn winter and snow soon!

The Swan Rangers meet every Saturday at the Echo Lake Cafe for breakfast at 8:30, leaving at 9:30 for a partial day outing in the northern Swan Mountains and foothills.

They now carpool from the Swan River School parking lot next to the Cafe, rather than the Swan River Community Hall lot.

Everyone is Welcome!

Hope to see you soon,

Keith

Keith Hammer and Pam Willison photos:



It was a sunny lunch stop atop a glaciated cliff above where the Broken Leg Trail crosses Wolf Creek, with views of Three Eagles and Big Hawk Mountains in the south end of Jewel Basin.



Accused of always being the one taking the photos and never being included in them, Keith Hammer poses above the beaver dam flats of Wolf Creek, which can be seen in the distance near his left knee.



Warm moisture fleeing the soil often grows inches into the cold air in fragile columns easily shattered by boot prints, as seen here.



Moisture escaping through scree rock sometimes forms wonderful icy whiskers!