

February 9, 2008

Fourteen Swan Rangers skied abandoned roads in Krause Basin Saturday, through glorious hemlock forest up to Strawberry Lake Road. After a bite of lunch, the group then split in two, with one group returning to the cars at Foothill Road via the Strawberry Lake Road and the other doubling back on the same route.

In spite of warmer temperatures at lower elevations, the snow still lays deep and heavy on the trees a little higher in Krause Basin and the streams remain totally bridged and buried in snow.

It was a good day to have glide wax on hand as the fresh snow was pretty sticky at lower elevations, but the snow is still pretty fast a bit higher up - fast enough that several Rangers practiced sitz-stops on the way back down!

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 carpool from the Swan River School parking lot next to the Cafe.

Everyone is Welcome!

Hope to see you soon,

Keith

Keith Hammer photos:



The Swan Rangers enter the deep, fairy tale western hemlock forests of Krause Basin.



The old road leading up to the Strawberry Lake Road has a series of birch tree arches to ski under.



A bite of lunch at the junction with Strawberry Lake Road, beneath towering hemlock trees, then several choices of how to return to the cars at Foothill Road.