

April 12, 2008

Nine Swan Rangers turned a partial-day outing into a full-day Saturday, with most reaching the summit of Infinity Ridge on the border of Jewel Basin above Wildcat Lake.

It was a gorgeous day of sunshine and hence the decision to seize a rare opportunity to gain the views offered atop Infinity Ridge. A few Rangers had other obligations in the afternoon or opted to turn around early to take advantage of our first really warm spring weather and sunshine in weeks at the lower elevation. We regrouped back at the cars and all had a great day!

Three golden eagles visited the Rangers along Infinity Ridge and the Rangers safely watched a good spring snow avalanche across Spider Bowl as that southern slope's fresh snow warmed in the sun and cut loose! That's why the Rangers followed the safe route up the ridge!

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

Photos by Keith Hammer:



The Swan Rangers put on their snowshoes in order to venture off the Strawberry Lake Road and head up the slopes of Infinity Ridge.



Standing atop Infinity Ridge affords views of peaks in Glacier National Park as well as this view south along the Swan Crest. Wildcat Lake is below the cornice to the left (note the Rangers aren't standing too close to that edge!).



The descent along Infinity Ridge offers spectacular views of the Flathead Valley and Flathead Lake!