

June 14, 2008

Fifteen Swan Rangers hiked up Peterson Creek Trail #293 to snow line on a beautiful, sunny and balmy Saturday, turning around and eating lunch about a quarter-mile shy of the junction with Broken Leg Divide Trail #353.

There's a lot of alder and mountain maple bent over Road #5398 by last week's heavy snow, but less and less the further we got up the trail.

More flowers are blooming with every week's outing, with lady's slipper, calypso orchid, bear grass, Indian paintbrush, and clematis being spotted, among others.

This trail offers great views of Flathead Lake and mountain peaks as far south as the Ninemile's Squaw Peak near Missoula and Mount Baldy near the towns of Hot Springs and Plains.

The Swan Rangers meet every Saturday at the Echo Lake Cafe for breakfast at 7:30, leaving at 8:30 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 on following pages:



The gang regroups after crossing a swollen Patterson Creek on slippery logs.



After a few switchbacks in dense forest, the trail crosses more open and sunny, south-facing slopes.



A view of Flathead Lake with Mount Baldy beyond.



Clematis, also known as virgin's bower, abounds along the trail.