

July 26, 2008

Thirteen Swan Rangers hiked Hemler Creek Trail #20 from Trail Creek Road #5385 to Alpine Trail #7 Saturday. They found lots of ripe huckleberries, but it is Ranger policy to never, ever reveal the exact location of prime huckleberry patches!

The first three miles of the Hemler Creek Trail is an old road climbing up out of Trail Creek. The next three miles of true trail traverse through the lush old-growth forests of South Hemler Creek, then through the more open hillsides, cliffs and alpine meadows of North Hemler to meet with Alpine Trail #7 at the top of the Swan Crest.

We ran into several couples backpacking with a 22 month old, heading from Strawberry Lake to Columbia Falls. They had spent a good night at Lamoose Lake and were headed to Doris Lake for the next night. It is good to see families enjoying the historic Alpine Trail #7, which runs from the Bob Marshall Wilderness to Columbia Falls along the spine of the Swan Crest.

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:



These Swan Rangers are NOT eating huckleberries, especially NOT along the Hemler Creek Trail!



South Hemler Creek offers moist soils well suited to Bog Orchids . . .



. . . while North Hemler offers alpine meadows . . .



. . . and views of Lake Blaine and beyond!