

December 6, 2008

Ten Swan Rangers hiked to Strawberry Lake in unexpectedly nice weather Saturday. It didn't take long to get above the "drip line" and into drier snow clinging to the trees and hillsides.

Several pine grosbeaks were perched well-camouflaged beside the trail on the way up and a large flock of birds repeatedly graced the skyline while a snack was eaten at Strawberry Lake, which is now frozen over and windswept.

As a token of appreciation for the fuel these Swan Rangers saved by car pooling and choosing non-motorized recreation, Swan View Coalition is donating \$20 to Energy Share Montana to help folks with fixed or low incomes heat their homes - something we hope to repeat each Saturday throughout the winter.

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 on following pages:



The side-hill into Strawberry Lake is not yet treacherous. Yet!



This view along the side-hill includes Peters Ridge at left, the locals' Strawberry Peak at center, and the USGS's Strawberry Peak at right.



Strawberry Lake is always a welcoming spot for a snack and group photo!



We must be getting close to Winter Solstice's shortest day of the year when sunset colors begin to appear at 2 in the afternoon!