

January 10, 2009

Nineteen Swan Rangers skied and snowshoed the foothills of the Swan Range Saturday. Two skied the groomed Nordic ski track along Foothill Road and the remainder skied a loop up through Krause Basin and back down the Strawberry Lake Road.

With the recent thaw, Krause Creek has made an appearance in several places, but the snow bridges to ski across remain largely intact. A pileated woodpecker was spotted during the return trip, along with a pile of large shavings below where it was drumming on a large snag.

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 page:



Swan Rangers cross Krause Creek at the Cottonwood Bottom.



Echo Creek springs forth from a grove of hemlock trees along the Strawberry Lake Road.