

January 24, 2009

Ten Swan Rangers snowshoed a loop through Krause Basin on old boiler plate snow while a hint of champagne powder fell from the sky. They took a route normally avoided on skis but fitting for snowshoes, enjoying majestic hemlock trees on the steep hillside above Krause Creek.

Though the sky was a bit overcast, it was nonetheless a bright day and Peters Ridge made a glorious sunny appearance early in the day. A couple of large climax (clear to the ground) slab avalanche paths are evident on the ridge just north of Peters Ridge, having run sometime during our weather inversion the past week.

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:



Peters Ridge lit up by early morning sunshine through a hole in the cloud cover.



The Swan Rangers head into the enchanted hemlock forests of Krause Basin.