

February 21, 2009

Fifteen Swan Rangers set out up Strawberry Lake Road Saturday to do various portions of Infinity Ridge, splitting into several smaller groups to return home at different times.

Six Rangers went all the way to the top, arriving in time to watch the mountain's shadow swallow up Jewel Basin's frozen Wildcat Lake. Besides snow ghosts, they saw tracks of snowshoe hare, weasel and pine marten. They made it back to their cars just before dark, which has thankfully moved back to about 6:30 as spring approaches!

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:



Changing from skis to snowshoes where the route leaves Strawberry Lake Road.



Several miles, several hours, and several thousand feet elevation later, Rangers top out at the Jewel Basin Boundary above Wildcat Lake.



Heading back down Infinity Ridge with great views of Flathead Lake!



The ridge that just keeps on going, and going, and going . . .