

May 9, 2009

Five Swan Rangers hiked the Crater Notch Trail Saturday to the "first lunch spot," after which winter snow pack still lays thick on the trail.

They saw lots of mule deer and several blue grouse, two of which were males in a "testy" mood and "humming" at us! The third grouse was female, so maybe that explains it!

It was a sunny day, though still a bit cool up high!

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. These earlier summer hours will continue until November 1, then switch back to an hour later.

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:



Snow and turn-around time Saturday at the "first lunch spot."



Male blue grouse strutting his stuff while going out on a limb!



Looking down on Echo Lake and the Lower Valley.



Skunk cabbage blooming along the Jewel Basin Road.