

July 25, 2009

Nine Swan Rangers beat the heat Saturday by hiking the high elevations from the Jewel Basin Parking lot up Mount Aeneas, returning via Picnic Lakes. Bear grass and many other wildflowers remain in full bloom, especially on the east side where snow banks are still retreating.

The Rangers saw mountain goats and a blue grouse hen with two chicks on the ridge leading up to the peak!

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.

They carpool from the Swan River School parking lot next to the Cafe.

Everyone is welcome!

Hope to see you soon,



Keith

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



A pause near the microwave station before heading up the final ridge to the peak.



A blue grouse hen and one of her chicks nearly hidden in the wildflowers along the trail!



The view south from the peak, near to distant: Birch, Squaw, and Crater Lakes.



A picture-perfect switchback in the trail west of the "notch" on the return from Picnic Lakes.