

August 8, 2009

Thirteen Swan Rangers hiked into Wolf Creek Canyon from the old Bear Creek Road, with five continuing on up the "back door" into Jewel Basin's Crater Lake. Another Swan Ranger hiked in via the Echo Broken Leg Trail and was dive-bombed four times by a goshawk in the area where a pair fledged young in a nest near the trail several years ago. Must have fledged some more nearby this year!

A single nice patch of huckleberries, otherwise scarce along the way, was the reward for grunting up the game trail that is Crater Lake's back door - along with a lifting of the clouds as we climbed. After a short snack in the sun overlooking Crater Lake, the Rangers headed back down for burgers and pie at the Mountain Brook Homestead Foundation Pie Social!

It was a fun day in the Swan Range and its Foothills community!

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 before heading up the informal trail off the end of the old Bear Creek Road.



A snack on "the lunch rocks" near Wolf Creek before some turn back and some head straight up . . .



. . . quickly leaving Wolf Creek and Flathead Lake far below.



With the "back door" in sight, Crater Lake is "just around the corner!"



Just a short ridge walk with our heads scraping the clouds and . . .



. . . there lies beautiful Crater Lake with Mount Aeneas in the background, with its head in the clouds too!