

March 6, 2010

Fourteen Swan Rangers snowshoed up Infinity Ridge east of Strawberry Lake Road Saturday, gaining wonderful views of the Flathead Valley, Wildcat Lake, Noisy Basin and Glacier Park on a wonderfully sunny day! And they even got back to the cars before dark! This is an all day climb of 3,500 feet in only about eight miles round trip.

They saw tracks of pine marten and snowshoe hare, a flock of geese winging north at eye level, hawks, and eagles. They also saw signs of spring; like snow ghost trees shedding their rime and glide cracks where the snow-pack on south-facing slopes begins to warm and slide on the slick bear grass below, revealing crescents of dark colored ground below.

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,

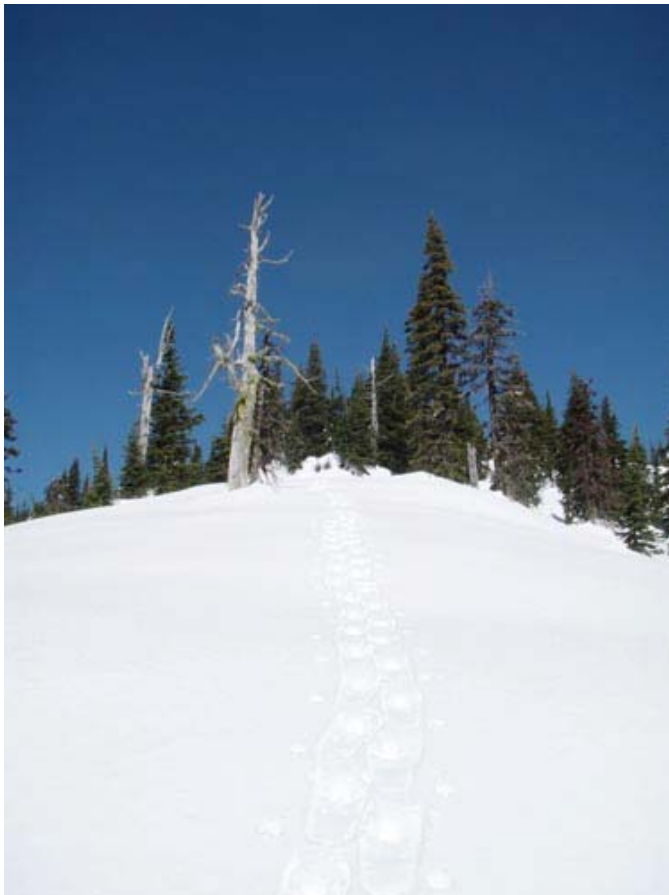


Keith

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



Preparing for launch from the Strawberry Lake Road, then . . .



. . . up we go, into the wild blue yonder!



But only after a bit of climbing to get above tree line.



When do we get to the steep part?



Looks like we're running out of mountain!



Sunny, but a cool breeze at 7,000' atop the Swan Crest.



The late afternoon sun lights up Flathead Lake as Rangers head back down Infinity Ridge.