

March 20, 2010

Thirteen Swan Rangers celebrated the first day of Spring by hiking and snowshoeing the Crater Notch Trail, with nearly half reaching the Swan Crest just north of the Notch. There they had views of Mount Aeneas, Birch Lake, the Mission Range, Flathead Lake and the Flathead Valley.

It was a wonderfully sunny day and the Rangers crossed the tracks of snowshoe hare, mule deer, elk, pine marten, and blue grouse. Topping out at 7,000' and getting back to the cars at 4:30, it occurred to the Rangers this outing was much like Infinity Ridge two weeks prior, except there's actually a trail to follow most of the way!

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:



Lunch and a bit of sun at the "first lunch spot."



Up the gully by the old burn to get off the sidehill and gain the Deer Cr-Birch Cr divide.



Onward and upward for more sun and more views.



Atop the Swan Crest; a visit by the Lone Ranger and his dog.



Mount Aeneas with the west end of Birch Lake visible at right.



Looking north of Mt. Aeneas, with Infinity Ridge leading to the rightmost peak on the horizon.



Looking south along Broken Leg, Orvis Evans and Sixmile Mountains, with Swan Lake and Mission Mountains at right.



Flathead Lake and the Ferdale area.



What goes up must come down!