

October 30, 2010

Eleven Swan Rangers hiked a loop in Krause Basin Saturday, starting out on bare ground and finding several inches of snow in the slightly higher elevations near Strawberry Lake trailhead. It is reported, however, that snow on top of Big Mountain and on top of the Swan Crest after this week's storm is measured in feet!

The Rangers shift to their later start times next Saturday, as described below, and won't return to the hour-earlier times until the first Saturday in May.

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!

When hiking in bear country, remember to carry bear spray and avoid the 3-D's: dawn, dusk, and darkness. Bears are not in hibernation yet.

Big game hunting season is on, so it's a very good idea to wear some bright "hunter orange" while hiking!



Keith

Photos by Keith Hammer:



Enjoyment of dawn on the Swan Range started just north of the Cafe!



Then the beauty of the Swan Range dawned on us again up Krause Creek!



While the ground is bare near Foothill Road . . .



. . . the gentle climb through Krause Basin ushers in snow.



But a bit of fall color remains in Cottonwood Bottom . . .



. . . and beneath the towering western hemlock trees!