

November 13, 2010

Nine Swan Rangers celebrated the Rangers' 5th anniversary and 260th outing Saturday, hiking to Elk Springs on Broken Leg Mountain - as was done during the first outing of two Rangers on November 12, 2005. Only this time they brought along tea, hot chocolate, Schnapps, and chocolate chip cookies!

They crossed the tracks of a sow grizzly and her cub in several places, as well as the tracks of coyote and deer. There are several inches of cold powder snow at Elk Springs, while the ground is still bare on the old Bear Creek Road - with damp snow in between.

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:



The Swan Rangers toast their 5th Anniversary and 260th outing while hunkering down out of the wind behind a boulder above Elk Spring!



A sow griz and her cub visited the area sometime earlier that morning or the night before.



Looks like a herd of something's been down this trail!



A snowflake butts in on the group photo along the old Bear Creek Road!