

December 18, 2010

Eleven Swan Rangers skied and snowshoed along Bog Road in the Swan River Wildlife Refuge Saturday, near the south end of Swan Lake. It was quite chilly with an even chillier breeze out of the south, but the skies were clear and it was a wonderful trip!

A couple nights of clear, cold skies brought hoar frost to the snow and everything else in sight! The refuge is a great place to see tracks of coyotes and marks of owls and raptors in the snow as they feed on small rodents scurrying about the marshlands!

There will be NO OUTING NEXT SATURDAY, CHRISTMAS MORNING, but we'll resume on January 1, 2011!

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.

There's enough snow that either cross-country skis or snowshoes are necessary.

Everyone is welcome!

HAPPY SOLSTICE, MERRY CHRISTMAS, and HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Keith

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer (and Bob Muth):



Bog Road is an open route across the refuge - and not too steep either!



Rangers pause along a frozen backwater bend in the Swan River.



Larger hoar frost "feathers" on a frozen bit of marsh.



Hall Peak seen through frosty cattails!



End of story: a small rodent seized by an owl or raptor that left marks of a wing tip (top) and tail feathers (right)!



Bob Muth captured a much more symmetrical display of feathered predator after prey!