

May 21, 2011

Six Swan Rangers hiked the Switchback Trail to snow-line Saturday, with four continuing on snowshoes to lunch on the ridge overlooking the Jewel Basin parking lot in Camp Misery. The Jewel Basin Road is free of snow to the trail-head located just past the 3-mile marker.

It was a beautiful, sunny day - very hot in the sun-on-snow and cool in the shade. The snow-pack is soft and greasy in the sun, making for some interesting butt- and tele-snowshoe-glissading on the descent!

The Swan Rangers meet every Saturday at the Echo Lake Cafe for **breakfast at 7:30, leaving at 8:30** 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.

Bears have emerged from their dens, so be sure to carry bear spray.

Everyone is welcome!



Keith

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer and Bob Muth:



The Switchback Trail becomes mostly snow covered about two-thirds of the way up the forested section before the burned area . . .



. . . then its time to abandon the buried zig-zag trail and head straight up the ridge!



Looking south along the Swan Crest.



Heading back down toward an emerald Echo Lake and a Flathead Lake muddied with spring runoff.



Tele-snowshoe glissading on greasy snow! (Bob Muth photo)



A partially burned snag "sandblasted" by the elements.