

July 2, 2011

Seventeen Swan Rangers hiked the Echo - Broken Leg and Crater Notch trails Saturday under beautiful blue, sunny skies. The group broke into smaller groups as some chose the more gentle Echo - Broken Leg Trail, some turned around at "the first lunch spot" along Crater Notch Trail, and others turned around as the snow got deep and steep in the upper basin.

Six continued on through Crater Notch and hiked in Jewel Basin - for about 50 yards! There's still plenty of snow at higher elevations. Moose and a mountain goat were seen along the way, as well as a wide array of wildflowers!

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.

When hiking in bear country, remember to carry bear spray and avoid the 3-D's: dawn, dusk, and darkness.

Everyone is welcome!



Keith

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



Proof a Crater Notch Trail does exist before disappearing beneath a heavy snow pack.



With the final switchbacks still buried, it's straight up the last pitch to Crater Notch!



Still plenty of cornices above Crater Notch, which itself holds a huge "pillow" of snow on the leeward side!



A view down Jewel Basin's Aeneas Creek and across a hidden Hungry Horse Reservoir to Mt. Baptiste and others in the Flathead Range.



Heading back down toward Mud Lake, Flathead Lake . . .



. . . and Echo Lake - where all this snow water ends up!