

July 9, 2011

Eleven Swan Rangers hiked the Peters Ridge Trail to the Swan Crest Saturday under wonderful blue skies and sunshine! The trail is buried in snow once it crosses Peters Ridge into the head of Browns Gulch, so the Rangers instead bushwhacked straight up the Ridge to reach the Crest.

They saw a half-dozen trees where bears have been stripping off the outer bark to eat the sweet inner cambium layer. And the views allowed them to see how the glaciers that once filled the Swan and Flathead valleys were deep enough to scrape the peaks right off the north end of the Mission Mountains to form the more flat-topped Crane Mountain!

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:



Bears love the sweet cambium layer between the bark and the wood!



The short, steep, snow-free route to the top!



Squeezing between the cliff and the snowfield!



Brisk winds carve lenticular clouds above the Glacier-carved Crane Mountain, Swan and Flathead Valleys.



Looking south along the Swan Crest with Mt. Aeneas at far right.



A nice lunch spot on the Swan Crest!