

July 23, 2011

Nineteen Swan Rangers hiked the 4.6 mile trail up to Sixmile Peak Saturday under pleasantly cool but sunny skies! The trail is bare of snow all the way to its Junction with Alpine #7. From there to the peak, about half the trail is still intermittently buried in snow.

Sixmile Peak offers outstanding views down the Swan Valley, of Swan and Flathead Lakes, of the Flathead Valley, of the Mission Mountains, and of mountains stretching from the Swan Range to the Rocky Mountain Front! A mountain bluebird paid the Rangers a visit during their snack break on the peak.

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:



The Sixmile Trail crosses several beautiful streams!



The forested hillside opens up as Sixmile Trail approaches its junction with Alpine Trail #7.



The junction with Alpine #7 offers a nice snack spot with views.



Sixmile Peak at 7,406 feet elevation.



Looking south along the Swan Crest toward Thunderbolt Mountain and Swan Peak.



Sixmile Peak Fire Lookout in 1920 (Forest Service photo).