

October 15, 2011

It was a rainy, cloudy morning in the Swan Range. But the day ended clear with a fresh coat of snow on the Swan Crest!

The Lone Swan Ranger spent the quiet morning walking among the fall wetlands on the Sonny Boon Trail near Somers where, on a clear day, one has nice views of the Swan Range! He then called in reinforcements and they headed for a soak in Big Medicine Hot Springs in Hot Springs, Montana, seeing innumerable hawks and a dozen big horn sheep along the way!

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

PS - Big game rifle season is Oct 22 - Nov 27, so it's a good idea to wear bright orange while hiking out there!

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



Rails to Trails' Sonny Boon Memorial Trail in Somers.



The Lone Swan Ranger points to a Swan Range obscured by clouds.



Rose hips along the trail!



Not-So-Lone Swan Rangers in Big Medicine Hot Springs. (Send us photos of your Swan Ranger patch in great places around the world!)



A Swan Ranger fends off a bear at Big Medicine Hot Springs . . .



. . . but the bear turns out to be friendly, asks for a Swan Ranger patch, and offers a donation to help meet the Cinnabar Challenge Grant!