

November 12, 2011

Seven Swan Rangers celebrated their Sixth Anniversary Outing by hiking the route of the first outing to just above Elk Spring on the Broken Leg Sidehill Trail! That first outing on Nov 12, 2005 brought two Rangers to balmy, sunny weather above a valley inversion. The Sixth Anniversary was quite the opposite, with temperatures dropping considerably at higher elevations!

The Swan Rangers have made 311 Saturday outings in the past 6 years, bringing together a total of 320 different people for shared experiences of the wonderful Swan Range! The average group size has grown from an average of 4 Rangers to 10.

The Sixth Anniversary was celebrated with some special, well-cooled chocolate until the wind chill suggested the Rangers return to lower, warmer climes!

The Swan Rangers meet every Saturday at the Echo Lake Cafe for **breakfast at 8:30, leaving at 9:30** 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:



Outing #1, Nov 12, 2005.



Outing #311, Nov 12, 2011.



Why is it always uphill to the nicest views?



Flathead Lake from the scree above Elk Spring.



Swan River and Flathead Lake, left; Mud and Echo Lakes; right, Hwy 83 dead ahead!



The shoulder of Crater Mtn. seen across Wolf Creek Canyon from Broken Leg Mtn.