

December 17, 2011

Ten Swan Rangers hiked and skied the Swan River Wildlife Refuge Saturday, following the dike road out to the Swan River before making a small loop and returning. The morning began with low-lying fog that slowly but surely gave way to sun and brilliant blue skies!

The Refuge is a sure bet when wanting to be out of the trees to enjoy a sunny day - without first having to climb above tree line! It's a flat-lander special with lots of tracks of small rodents, coyotes and birds - and fabulous views of the Swan Range!

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. Some bears are still not denned yet!

Everyone is welcome!



Keith

PS – Happy Winter Solstice Wednesday!

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



Hurry, hurry, read all about it!



An almost-solstice sun burns away at the fog!



The Swan River and Thunderbolt Mountain!



Hall Peak out in the tules!



Small rodent neighborhood!



Cattails sport winter attire along the dike road!