

February 25, 2012

Thirteen Swan Rangers snowshoed a nice loop over "The Knob" in Krause Basin Saturday, in plentiful snow that was a lot drier than the rain falling in the Echo Lake Cafe parking lot during breakfast! They surprised, and were surprised by, a small herd of elk browsing mountain maple buds in the shallower snows not far from Foothill Road!

The moral of the day is to never underestimate the drier, colder conditions only several hundred feet higher than the valley bottom - especially when it's in Krause Basin!

On a sad note, Marie passed away yesterday, a fine Echo Lake dog that hiked many a Ranger outing back in the days when dogs were allowed. Our condolences to Jan.

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.

Everyone is welcome!



Keith

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



Those Rangers sure know how to get their ducks in a row!



When elk have been on the move!



A bit of a workout in the deep snow . . .



. . . but not a bad trail when you're #13!





The north slope of "The Knob" is big hemlock forest!



Marie has crossed over the great divide.