

April 28, 2012

Five Swan Rangers parked their cars at the Swan Highway and hiked to Mission Lookout Saturday, though the road is bare and one can drive there. They're glad they hiked it because the songbirds are thick in the river bottom, which is high and wide as the Swan River is spilling over its banks with spring runoff!

One of the Rangers says he spied a moose in one of the flooded backwaters, but the rest failed to see it when they went to look also. While at the lookout they heard the call of a barred owl and the distant call of sandhill cranes in the wetlands far below.

It was a much sunnier-than-forecast day and a pleasant surprise. A bonus was the collection of a full bag of aluminum beer cans along the Forest Service roads and the opportunity to big up a bag of trash besides!

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. (Note this is an hour earlier than "winter hours" and will continue until November)!

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:



Another sunny day at Porcupine Bridge over the Swan River!



Flooded backwater where a moose was spotted!



A freshwater spring along Porcupine Road.



Mission Lookout.



Hall Peak from Mission Lookout.



Picking up trash along the road!