

May 5, 2012

Five Swan Rangers braved the first Saturday of "early summer hours," as well as "inclement" weather, to have a great time hiking the Peterson Creek Trail. The eight mile hike climbed from spring wildflowers into fresh snow and lingering winter snow pack just below the junction with the Sidehill Trail.

A couple of Rangers were testing out new cameras with improved macro and telephoto capabilities. Cool, breezy, snowy weather at the turn around point caused the Rangers not to linger too long before heading back to warmer - but rainier - climes!

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

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer:



Fresh snow where the trail leaves the old logging road.



There were lots of calypso orchids along the trail . . .



. . . as well as plentiful wood violets!



Ranger Bob gets a close-up of a vine of clematis along the way.



Melting-snow droplets cling to a spider web!



A view through snowfall to clearer weather over Flathead Lake.