June 23, 2012

Eleven Swan Rangers hiked the still-gated Peters Ridge Road Saturday, then headed off-track into the avalanche chutes of upper Krause Basin. The road gate opens July 1 to again provide motor access to the Peters Ridge Trail.

It was a warm day, starting off with a bit of a sprinkle before turning sunny - but both were accompanied by gusty winds! There were lots of elk tracks in the wildlife-rich Krause Basin!

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!

Photos on following pages by Keith Hammer and Bob Muth:
Pause for a group photo at Olson Creek.

Bog orchids in the wet areas near Olson Creek.
A nice view of Echo and Flathead Lakes from Peters Ridge Road.

Mariposa lily on the road cut-bank.
Crossing North Krause Creek near its source.

A lunch stop among winter avalanche debris!