

June 30, 2007

Eight Swan Rangers hiked Sixmile Peak above the town of Swan Lake Saturday, getting awesome views of the Swan Valley, Swan Lake, Flathead Lake, Flathead Valley, Swan Range, South Fork Flathead, and peaks of Glacier National Park!

It was a sunny but cool day; perfect for hiking. The trail crosses a number of wonderful springs, where monkeyflower is blooming, and the moist hillsides are lush with cow parsnip, a favorite bear food.

The trail is in great shape and appears to have been recently cleared of dead-fall. A short drive to Swan Lake and a 5 or 6 mile hike one-way, the views from Sixmile rival those from Mount Aeneas.

It was a particularly great day for conversation, with New Zealander Jan visiting during a break from her job teaching in Beijing and Cy providing a rich history of the Swan Lake area and the Kootenai Lodge.

Our only disagreement of the day, however subtle, was when everyone on the south side of the breakfast table had pancakes while those on the north side ate no pancakes whatsoever!

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.

Everyone is Welcome!

Hope to see you soon,

Keith

Keith Hammer photos:



Jackets were a welcome layer in the cool breeze atop Sixmile Peak.



Cy test drives the Sixmile Posturepedic.



A wonderful view of Swan Lake and Flathead Lake from the shoulder of Sixmile Peak.