

August 25, 2007

Five Swan Rangers hiked in a nice cool breeze on the lower sections of the Peterson Creek and Broken Leg Divide trails Saturday, looping back down to the cars via "the ridge" shortcut.

They marveled at the abundant rock and moss, checked out an old grizzly bear den used several winters ago, saw Clark's nutcrackers, jays and other small birds, saw a sharp-shinned hawk, and heard a red-tailed hawk.

The Broken Leg Divide and Broken Leg Sidehill trails are excellent off the beaten path trails not recommended for horse and mountain bike, but cleared well enough for backpacking and day hiking. They also access beautiful draws and ridges at mid-slope on Broken Leg Mountain as well as a couple ways to connect the Peterson Creek and Broken Leg/Wolf Creek trails.

As summer crowds at Echo Lake Cafe dwindle and the days grow shorter, keep an eye on these emails and the Hiking page at www.swanrange.org for our start time, as we will fairly soon shift back to our "winter" hours of 8:30 breakfast/9:30 depart.

For now and likely the next several weeks, however:

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 Hammer photos:



The lower reaches of the Broken Leg Divide Trail pass through both open boulder fields and shady glens of moss-covered rock.



The Broken Leg Divide Trail traverses a grand boulder-strewn cirque not seen from the Peterson Creek Trail and provides equally stunning views of the Ferndale area and Flathead Lake.