

February 10, 2007

Nine Swan Rangers skied above the valley inversion and fog Saturday. We skied up the Jewel Basin Road to where it curves sharply back into Noisy Basin and the Camp Misery parking lot, wanting in part to avoid the avalanche danger of the open slopes beyond our turn-around point.

Our turn-around point offered nice views of Noisy Basin and avalanches where fresh snow has slid on a buried ice/crust layer in the snow pack.

It was a beautiful and sunny day above the fog and the morning was quiet.

Ironically we mostly "well-seasoned" skiers met quite a few younger skiers on our way down in the afternoon, but they were on their way up on snowmobiles to ski and snowboard above the Camp Misery parking lot.

Something along the lines of Sustained Satisfaction versus Instant Gratification.

Be aware the Jewel Basin Road is badly "wash-boarded" by snowmobile traffic, making it difficult to ski.

The Swan Rangers meet every Saturday at the Echo Lake Cafe for breakfast at 8:30, leaving at 9:30 for a partial day outing in the northern Swan Mountains and foothills.

Everyone is Welcome!

Hope to see you soon,

Keith

Keith Hammer photo - The Swan Rangers emerged from Flathead Valley fog on the Jewel Basin Road to wide vistas and a bit of sunshine:

