

October 20, 2007

Six Swan Rangers celebrated their 100th Saturday outing by retracing the path of the first outing held in November of 2005.

They hiked the closed Bear Creek road and took the informal trail up the ridge to meet the Broken Leg Trail near Elk Springs, hiking in a healthy skiff of snow the upper third of the trip.

The weather was much better than forecast, with only a bit of sleet at the very beginning - not enough to even get wet.

Views from where we turned around just above Elk Spring were grand, with the slate gray of sky and rock contrasting with white snow and lingering fall colors.

The Swan Ranger Station also made its debut in the parking lot and will be available for educational appearances, parades, and perhaps Swan Ranger shuttles during warmer weather!

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.

Beginning November 3, the Swan Rangers will shift their breakfast and leave times to an hour later for the Fall, Winter and Spring.

General big game hunting season has now begun and will run through Thanksgiving weekend - so wear bright orange while spending time in the woods!

Everyone is Welcome!

Keith Hammer photos:



The day was begun with a quick tour of the portable Swan Ranger Station.



The boulder field just above Elk Spring, along the Broken Leg Trail is a great place for views of Ferndale and Flathead Lake - and a quick snack in a chill breeze!



There are times when slate gray weather and rock are wonderfully beautiful in themselves but also in contrast to lingering fall colors!