

October 27, 2007

Seven Swan Rangers hiked up Mount Aeneas Saturday via the Switchback Trail, gaining about 3,500' in elevation and grand views on a wonderful sunny day!

All hiked to the ridge overlooking Picnic Lakes and four continued to the peak while the others ate lunch. It was breezy and nippy on the peak, but the footing was good on the snow pack along the upper ridge. The only ice on the trail currently is between Alpine 7 and the communications building on the ridge.

The Switchback Trail leaves the Jewel Basin Road at about mile marker 3.25 and offers an aerobic and fuel-saving alternative to driving all the way to the upper parking lot, still providing day-hike access to the peak (Saturday's group was back to the trailhead at 2:30 pm).

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.

Notice the times above just shifted from the earlier summer hours. And don't forget to wear some hunter orange out there as big game hunting season continues!

Everyone is Welcome!

Hope to see you soon,

Keith

Keith Hammer photos:



The ridge near the communications building overlooks Picnic Lakes, which are already frozen over, and a view of the remaining ridge route to the 7,530 foot peak of Aeneas.



It was a wonderful trek toward the autumn sun along the ridge.



A stiff winter breeze was blowing on the peak, but the views were well worth it!



A four-frame panorama provides a hint of the grand views of Glacier National Park, Great Northern and Stanton Peaks, and the South Fork Flathead.