

September 9, 2007

Five Swan Rangers hiked up the Switchback Trail to Malfunction Junction on the shoulder of Mt. Aeneas Saturday.

We saw grouse, lots of robins, a sharp-shinned hawk, a black bear, and wonderful views of Echo Lake, Flathead Lake and beyond.

As four returned down Switchback Trail, the fifth looped around via Birch Lake and a cross-country shortcut to the Crater Notch Trail, phoning in his safe return about an hour behind the rest.

It was a beautiful fall day with plenty of sunshine but plenty of cool for hiking.

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:



The Switchback Trail offers great views of Mud Lake, Echo Lake, Flathead Lake, and beyond.



The Switchback Trail climbs the shoulder of Mt. Aeneas through a prescribed burn intended to help whitebark pine get reestablished in their native habitat.



Four grouse were feeding on berries along the trail, a sharp-shinned hawk hunted over the more open burned slopes, and a black bear explored shrub fields looking for berries.