

Viking Thursday Tour 6th February 2014

With the Olympic mantra "faster, further, higher" currently in the public mind, the Viking Thursday tour group considered its options and selected "higher" i.e. the assault of the 490 m high Mont Loup-Garou!

Some 11 token athletes made the 10 am rendez-vous at Ste-Adele's vast public car park, just above the age old landmark -the Hotel Chantecler.

We skied some 6 km on the Adeloise-ouest (No. 1) and Alexis (No. 12) trails to reach the summit of Mont Loup-Garou where there is a now a somewhat dilapidated "relais" where folks can partake of their lunches within although we discovered it was actually warmer outside on the sunny south facing deck. There is another Olympic link atop Loup-Garou inasmuch, with squinted eye, you can actually just make out the Montreal Olympic stadium tower on the horizon!

For variety, we skied the 6 km return on the Loup-Garou (No.11) trail back to the car park. There is a fair share of uphill, but rewarded with exhilarating down hill runs!

All in all, the Ste-Adele municipality is to be congratulated on the excellence of its "entirely free" ski trail network, with excellent signage and track-setting quality.

For compensation of the our day's Olympic efforts, and to help the local economy, we retired post-ski to the Marie-Claude Chocolaterie to indulge in various exotic hot beverages!

A final Olympic connection, we learn that the son and daughter of one of our Thursday tourers is currently working on site at the Sochi Olympics!

