

Greetings from QUÉBEC!



COURTESY, DARLEY NEWMAN/© CHIP WARD

After eating a big breakfast and watching the falling snow from my seat by a warm fire, I wasn't sure that I wanted to brave the cold to ride the snowy trails at Ranch Mont Tremblant, a Western-style ranch in Québec. Yet the conditions were perfect for a winter ride, and I had packed lots of fleece layers, so I headed over to the barn to meet my horse, Judy, and riding partner, Daniel Locas.

On the way, Josée Champagne, a bubbly French woman who is passionate about her ranch, told me how she and her husband started Ranch Mont Tremblant, in the ski area of the same name, 18 years ago. The couple started the ranch with one barn that housed horses and guests. With time they outgrew it and added new barns. Today, the horses and guests each have their own barns, and horsy guests like me think the atmosphere is pretty cool.

My horse was energized and listened very well, making her a pleasure to ride. Her hooves crunched along the trail, which was groomed for riders. We rode past the frozen Black Banks River, enjoying panoramic views of the beautiful snow-covered Laurentian Mountains. We were also able to do some backcountry riding, off the trails. For a brief stretch, Judy plowed through the powdery snow, leaving giant tracks in what was a pristine area. It was truly wild and cool, but only something to try when you know what's underfoot.

For dinner, I had the best French onion soup that I have ever eaten. It really warmed me up after walking, trotting and dashing through the snow in Québec's mountains.

À bientôt,
Darley

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NewsBITS

move forward with developing "rider tests," which would replace traditional scoring with general scores for the evaluation of rider competency.

The Dressage Committee will also pursue the appointment of a joint USEF/USDF task force, with a mission to study statistics and investigate performance standards options for the sport.

No Braiding for Unrated Hunters

In recognition of the current economic climate, promoters of the four major winter hunter/jumper circuits came together to advise judges not to penalize exhibitors who opt not to braid for unrated hunter classes. The promoters from Gulfport, HITS, Jacksonville and the Winter Equestrian Festival agreed that, while a small step, this action may make it easier for exhibitors to continue their participation in the shows.

Summer Youth Olympic Games

Singapore will host the first Summer Youth Olympic Games in 2010. Show-jumping is the sole discipline representing equestrian sport and will feature 30 riders in the 17-18 age group. Competitors will vie for individual and continental team medals riding borrowed horses at the Singapore Turf Club Riding Centre.

The first Summer YOG will encompass all 26 sports on the program of the 2012 Olympic

Games in London, with a limited number of disciplines and events. It is expected to bring together nearly 3,600 athletes over the 12 days of competition.

Qualifications are available at www.fei.org. More information on the 2010 YOG can be found at www.singapore2010.sg.

"Week With the Maddens" Winners Announced

The two winners of the "Week With the Maddens" contest on EquiSearch.com have been announced. Both winners received

a Bates Caprilli Close Contact saddle and a week with either **Frank Madden** or **Beezie and John Madden**. **Terri Young** of Leesburg, Virginia, won the week with Frank, and **Maggie Smith** of Mentor, Ohio, will be spending a week with John and Beezie.



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Wilson College Trots Out Equine Journalism Major

Beginning this year, Wilson College of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, has added an equine journalism major to its bachelor's degree offerings. Although some colleges offer equine journalism as a concentration within a major or as a class, Wilson may be the first college in the United States to offer a degree in the field.

The bachelor's in equine journalism will combine equestrian studies, one of the school's most