

Carp, Ontario
Friday, 4 December, 2009

Dear Challenger owners and friends:

**INVITATION TO THE 20th ANNUAL
ICOA WINTER WEEKEND RENDEZ-VOUS
"THE BIG TWO OH!!"**

Again this year, with the help of Mr. Bryan Quickmire of National Ultralight Inc., Canadian Distributor of the Challenger aircraft series, I am organising the 20th edition of the annual International Challenger Owners Association (ICOA Canada) Winter Weekend Rendez-Vous. This fun-filled skiplane event will be held on the weekend of Friday, 22 January, to Sunday, 24 January 2010, at the beautiful Chateau Montebello, 392 rue Notre Dame, Montebello, QC. The GPS co-ordinates for the hotel's location are as follows: N 45 39 W 74 57.

Twenty years ago, a hardy group of about ten Challenger owners braved the frigid winter conditions to congregate at Maurice "Mo" Patton's cabin in the Laurentian Mountains for spaghetti. From that humble beginning the Challenger Winter Rendezvous has moved up in the world! Recent events have seen as many as 250 people and 36 Challengers enjoying the luxurious, world class facilities at Chateau Montebello.

This year, our Rendez-Vous will feature five Saturday "hangar flying" sessions. Starting at 11:00 in the Quebec Room, Bryan Quickmire, Challenger distributor for Canada, will discuss recent activities and future plans. Bill Dawes of Challenger Ottawa and Pierre Brisson of Ultralight Solutions will describe their merger to provide a complete sales and service centre for Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec. Mike and Tracy Hughes from Edmonton will fill the attendees in on happenings at Challenger West. The presenters will field questions on all aspects of owning and operating Challengers. This session is sponsored by Challenger Ottawa / Ultralight Solutions. Refreshments will be served.

At 14:00 hrs in the same Quebec Room, a representative from Nav Canada will update us on the national airspace policy and its effect on the Windsor-Toronto-Montreal corridor including the Ottawa area. At the same time, in the opposite conference room, called the Ontario Room, Mr. Randy Shipclark from Aero Kinetics in Carleton Place, ON, will offer insights on getting the maximum reliability from the ROTAX engines which power virtually all ultralights.

Following a refreshment break, at 15:30 hrs in the Ontario Room, Mr. Gord Ekstrom, will "show and tell" about flying his Challenger from Ottawa all the way to Sun n' Fun in Lakeland, Florida, with his friend André Girard. At the same time, in the Quebec Room, Ms. Kathy Lubitz, President, Ultralight Pilots Association of Canada (UPAC), will inform us of the very latest in the ultralight world, including the reform of all Canadian aircraft categories. Mr. Frank Hofmann, in his dual role of Eastern Vice-Chair, Board of Directors, COPA, and Canadian Representative at the International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations (IAOPA), will join Kathy and will be giving us his thoughts on the latest trends in the world of personal aviation.

Finally, the evening's post-banquet presentation will feature a presentation by André Girard, Mike Prescott, Claude Roy and Patrick Vinet, about their float flying pilgrimage to Baddeck, Nova Scotia, this past summer to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of powered flight in Canada.

Montebello Radio Frequencies

**Enroute: 122.75 Mhz
5 nm from Montebello: 123.2 Mhz**

Saturday morning is usually your best time to observe the airplanes coming in and buzzing all along the Ottawa River. Anyone with an air radio should monitor the two frequencies mentioned above.

Last year, our 19th Rendez-Vous was held in this same venue. The weather was snowy and not flyable on Thursday or Friday, but it was sunny and perfect on Saturday. A cold front swept through again on Sunday morning. This led to crisp and clear conditions on Monday for a return home.

In other words, Old Man Winter did his best to challenge the long distance flyers. However, the perfect conditions on Saturday did allow around two dozen local ski planes to join the festivities. Attendance at the Saturday evening banquet was great, as a group of 114 people enjoyed a superb meal in excellent company.

Mr. Brent Thompson won the 2009 "Farthest Flown" Award for his flight to Montebello from Orillia, Ontario. Icing on the cake, Brent also won the "Best Show Plane" Award for his beautiful 2005 Challenger II registered C-IXTX. The "Dave Allan" Award, in the memory of the late Challenger builder Dave Allan, recognizes the highest levels of technical achievement in the Challenger world. It was won by Greg Klemp Sr. from Sheer Technologies in Neshkoro, Wisconsin, USA, for their development and testing of the ROTAX 582 cooling system now installed on the Challenger. Finally, the prestigious "Maurice Vinet" Award, honouring a Challenger pilot who exemplifies the passion for flight of the late Maurice Vinet, went to Mike and Tracy Hughes from Edmonton, Alberta.

Again this year, a group of owners of ski-equipped Challengers is planning to fly in formation from southern Ontario to the Challenger meet. We would like to extend an invitation to other Challenger owners to join them along the route and help them in this aerial odyssey. This group will originate from the Toronto area and will proceed generally eastward to Montebello, adjusting their route to meet up with others along the way.

You can also come on your own or, better still, organise your own group to come to the Challenger Rendez-Vous! Let me know of your intentions to fly to Montebello and we will help you with contacts and use of the Challenger website to promote your own adventure flight.

Of course, flight planning is subject to weather. The group may leave a day or two early or get back a day or two late. Either way, this is true adventure. It is a great opportunity for you to build flying memories that will last you a lifetime. Groups usually can alter their plans to accommodate other Challengers. For more information or to indicate your desire to join this Southern Ontario group, contact Bryan Quickmire at bdq@challenger.ca or 705-721-9811.

Again this year, our group will be the hotel's prime customer during that weekend as I pre-booked for you a block of sixty five (65) Fairmont rooms. You can personally reserve one (or many) of these rooms until Monday, 24 December 2009, after which any of the hotel's remaining rooms will be on a "first come, first serve" basis to any hotel customer. Price wise, the hotel offers us a group rate of \$185.00 per room per night (many rooms have two double beds), which is a real bargain considering the luxury and comfort of this hotel. It also offers an impressive selection of recreational facilities for the whole family to enjoy. You can make your own hotel reservations by either calling the Fairmont Hotel Reservation Centre at 1-800-441-1414 or faxing your request directly to Chateau Montebello at 819-423-5283. Please, specify you are part of the Challenger group, so you can get the special rooms and group rates.

Year after year, the deluxe buffet supper formula is a success. Having our own buffet and banquet room means we can all be together in casual clothing, we can move around freely and talk "Challenger Talk" all evening long with everybody. Again this year, the Chateau's biggest reception room, the Canada Room, holding a maximum of 200 people, will have a deluxe hot-cold buffet served with bar facilities available in the same room. Jeans are perfectly acceptable in our banquet room as well as throughout the hotel during the whole weekend.

As in previous years, the hotel will make only one single invoice covering everything for the banquet except personal bar expenses. The hotel will not collect individually at banquet time, which means I have to collect the money from everyone in advance.

The price for the banquet is \$55.00 per adult and \$27.50 per child (under 12) which includes all taxes and a 15% service charge. The hotel will need to know the exact number of people who will be attending this buffet by Monday, 18 January 2010. Therefore, I need a firm commitment of your presence to the banquet one week prior to the event by Friday, 15 January 2010. Your confirmation will be in the form of a personal cheque sent to me at the earliest convenience and dated 15 January 2010 at the latest. The amount of your cheque will cover the full amount of your reserved seat(s).

Once again, if for any reason anyone from your group does not show up for supper, Joan, my wife, will be manning the banquet reservation table at the entrance of the "Canada Room" banquet hall. She will do her utmost to sell your seat(s) at the door on the night of the banquet. Providing we are successful in selling your paid seat(s) to someone else, once Montebello is over, I will return your money in the form of a personal cheque sent to you by mail.

Hotel rooms and banquet places are limited. Every year, attendance can reach or surpass the hotel's full capacity of 200 people. We work on the principle of "first come, first serve", so please make an early commitment on your personal/family schedule for this special event, making this one your best and most important Challenger activity in 2010. Whatever the weather, whatever the means of transportation (by Challenger preferably!), come and meet all your flying friends.

Every year, Montebello serves as an ideal launching point for discussions on the upcoming summer float trips and other flying adventures. This year's theme for the whole weekend will be "THE BIG TWO OH!!" as we will celebrate 20 years of winter flying fun. Yes, we are blessed with a great airplane in the Challenger. Like us, it ages well and the support from the factory and the whole dealer network is terrific. Let's hope the enthusiasm about the Challenger continues for many years to come.

Personally in 2010, I plan to organise another two-week float flying adventure this summer to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the very first time Canadian ultralights were authorized to fly to the United States and to the great AirVenture event in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The flying adventure, dubbed "Return to Oshkosh", will aim at landing at the Wittman Regional Airport (OSH) early in the morning of Sunday, 25 July, 2010, just one day prior to the official opening of the event which will be running from 26 July to 1st August.

This adventure will stretch about 2,000 statute miles and will likely depart on Monday, 19 July, from the Canada Aviation Museum in Ottawa, ON. This particular adventure requires all participating pilots to have one full year of flying experience, plus at least one season of float flying experience. People involved in the trip will take lots of pictures and will subsequently prepare a feature presentation of their flying adventure to be given at an upcoming Challenger event, probably the 2011 Winter Rendez-Vous in Montebello.

If you are interested to join us or provide help on this adventure, please contact me personally at my home phone number indicated below.

Like every year, we encourage the more experienced people at Montebello to seek out the less experienced ones, the new faces, and simply do their very best to help the newcomers in their quest for flight. Conversely, I ask all the newcomers who will be there to leave any shyness behind and openly go forward with their salutations and questions. Montebello is one's best bet for gaining knowledge from the experience of others. Go for it!

In conclusion, let me invite you, once more, to keep current with the latest Challenger news through the Challenger website at www.challenger.ca. If you have your own email address, be sure to leave this email address on the website notification list, so we can give you an automatic email invitation of this event plus any change(s) to this and/or any other Challenger activities.

Joan joins me in wishing you all "Season's Greetings" and lots of good flying in 2010!

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INVITATION PERSONNELLE - 20ième RENDEZ-VOUS ANNUEL
DU CHAPITRE CANADIEN DE
L'ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES PROPRIÉTAIRES DE CHALLENGERS

Aux amis francophones qui ont de la difficulté avec l'anglais, cette lettre, envoyée à tous les propriétaires connus de Challengers au Canada, est une invitation à se rencontrer tous ensemble au 20ième rassemblement hivernal annuel des propriétaires de Challengers qui se tiendra durant la fin de semaine du 22 au 24 janvier 2010 au magnifique Château Montebello, 392 rue Notre Dame, Montebello, Québec. Les coordonnées GPS de l'hôtel sont N45 39 W74 57.

Un bloc de 65 chambres Fairmont ont été réservées pour notre groupe et sont disponibles à un tarif spécial de 185\$/nuit (plusieurs chambres ont deux lits doubles). Vous pouvez réserver une ou plusieurs chambres en composant le numéro 1-800-441-1414 ou en communiquant avec l'hôtel par FAX au (819) 423-5283. En ce qui concerne la sécurité de votre avion, 30 systèmes d'attaches seront préparés sur la glace devant l'hôtel et seront disponibles sur une base de "premier arrivé, premier servi".

Vous pouvez également réserver une ou des places au buffet de luxe du samedi soir à raison de 55\$/adulte et 27.50\$/enfant (moins de 12 ans) en me téléphonant directement au numéro (613) 836-7243.

En plus des avions à admirer et des pilotes avec qui échanger, des représentants bilingues de l'Association des propriétaires et pilotes d'avions du Canada (COPA) et de la UPAC (Ultralight Pilots Association of Canada) seront sur place afin de vous mettre à jour au sujet des derniers règlements et développements concernant l'ultra-léger et l'aviation personnelle.

Nous espérons vous voir en grand nombre à cette activité qui, j'en suis sûr, saura plaire à toute la famille.

Si vous avez des questions sur l'organisation de l'événement ou sur tout autre point technique, telles que les altitudes ou les corridors d'approche autour de Montréal, n'hésitez pas à me téléphoner au numéro (613) 836-7243. À bientôt!