

Carp, Ontario
Friday, 3 December, 2010

Dear Challenger owners and friends:

**INVITATION TO THE 21st ANNUAL
ICOA WINTER WEEKEND RENDEZ-VOUS
“WINTER FLYING, THEN AND NOW”**

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 21st 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, 4 February, to Sunday, 6 February 2011, at the beautiful Château 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.

This year, our Rendez-Vous will feature at least five Saturday "hangar flying" sessions. Starting at 11:00 hrs in the Quebec Room, Mr. Quickmire will hold an information session on Challenger news plus questions and answers. Refreshments will be served. At 14:00 hrs in the same Quebec Room, Bryan will continue entertaining us and educating us by highlighting the differences between the theory and the practical aspects of flying a Challenger.

At the same time, in the opposite conference room, called the Ontario Room, Mr. George Wood from Rotech Research Canada Ltd. in Vernon, BC, will team up with Mr. Daniel Sasseville from Aéro Propulsion Technologies in St-Lazare, QC, to offer an expert presentation on the world of Rotax engines.

Following a refreshment break, at 15:30 hrs in the Ontario Room, Ed and Rob deNijs, a father-and-son team, will give us a "show and tell" about their personal experience at building the very first LSA Challenger in Canada.

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.

This will be immediately followed by a short presentation by Robert Fleck, President of Vintage Wings of Canada in Gatineau, Quebec, on the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan and the training of Second World War pilots in winter conditions.

Please note that, in keeping with theme of their presentation, Vintage Wings will also try its best to bring to Montebello a winter ski-equipped Tiger Moth, a rare sight indeed.

Finally, the evening's post-banquet presentation will feature a presentation by John Woudstra and Claude Roy about their float flying pilgrimage to AirVenture 2010 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, this past summer to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the US Federal Aviation Administration legislation permitting Canadian ultralights to fly into the United States.

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 20th Rendez-Vous was held in this same venue. The weather was not the greatest in the days prior to the event, so it did affect many decisions for long-distance guys to fly from afar. The conditions from Friday to Monday inclusive were ideal for flying. If the actual weather was perfect for long flights to the Rendezvous on Thursday and Friday, a massive storm system was moving in from the west on Tuesday. It would have made it impossible for long-range flyers to start their trip home until at least Wednesday or Thursday. About ten flyers ended up driving because of this.

Old Man Winter still did allow 29 Challengers to join the festivities. A record total of 76 airplanes, some on wheels, enjoyed the beautiful weather and ice conditions. Attendance at the Saturday evening banquet was great, as a group of 140 people enjoyed a superb meal in excellent company.

Mr. Pierre Brisson won the 2009 "Farthest Flown" Award for his flight to Montebello from Smiths Falls, Ontario. Pierre Brisson also won the "Best Show Plane" Award for his beautiful 2004 Challenger II Advanced ultralight registered C-IPJB. 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 Patrick Vinet of PuddleJumper Floats Inc., from Outremont, Quebec, for his ongoing development of the most popular set of amphibious floats one can install on the Challenger (www.puddlejumper.com). Finally, the prestigious "Maurice Vinet" Award, honouring a Challenger pilot who exemplifies the passion for flight of the late Maurice Vinet, went to John Woudstra from Ottawa, Ontario.

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 seven (67) Fairmont rooms for Saturday evening. You can personally reserve one (or many) of these rooms until Friday, 24 December 2010, 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 \$190.00 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 Le Chaâteau 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 Château'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, 31st January 2011. Therefore, I need a firm commitment of your presence to the banquet one week prior to the event by Friday, 28 January 2011. Your confirmation will be in the form of a personal cheque sent to me at the earliest convenience and dated 28 January 2011 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 2011. 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 "Winter Flying then and now" as we celebrate our Canadian winter and all the flying opportunities it provides us.

Personally in 2011, I plan to organise another two-week float flying adventure this summer to participate in the biggest float fly-in in the world. Held every year since 1973 on Moosehead Lake near Greenville, Maine, USA, the International Seaplane Fly-in brings in thousands of participants and spectators to the Moosehead Region on the weekend after Labour Day.

This flying adventure, dubbed "The Big Splash-in", will aim at meeting with a group from Eastern Quebec and the Maritimes to fly together from Western New Brunswick and participate to the 38th running of this four-day event to be held on 8-11 September, 2011. Following our visit to Moosehead Lake, a westbound return will bring us through Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts to New York State and the beautiful Hudson River Valley.

Nearby will be the Old Rhinebeck Aerodrome, a quaint little grass strip in Northern New York, where you can find the best collection of flying historical airplanes on the continent. There, we will see ready-to-fly airplanes like an original 1911 Blériot XI, a WWI German Albatros D.Va or a French Caudron GIII from the same era. From there, a few hours flying northbound will bring us back to Canada.

The whole adventure will stretch about 1,500 statute miles and will likely depart on Labour Day Monday, 5 September, from the Ottawa area. 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 2012 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 2011.

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