

Carp, Ontario  
Tuesday, 6 December, 2011

Dear Challenger owners and friends:

**INVITATION TO THE 22nd ANNUAL  
ICOA WINTER WEEKEND RENDEZ-VOUS  
“SNOW ‘n FUN”**

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 annual International Challenger Owners Association (ICOA Canada) Winter Weekend Rendez-Vous. This, the 22nd edition of our event, has SNOW ‘n FUN as its theme reflecting the fact that even in Canada as much enjoyment can be had aviating in winter as in summer!

This fun-filled skiplane event will be held on the weekend of Friday, 3 February, to Sunday, 5 February 2012, at the beautiful Le Château Montebello, 392 rue Notre Dame, Montebello, QC. The GPS co-ordinates for the hotel are: N 45 39 W 74 57.

This year, our Rendez-Vous will feature five Saturday "hangar flying" sessions. Refreshments will be served at 10:30 hrs and again at 15:00 hrs courtesy of National Ultralight.

Starting at 10:30 hrs in the Quebec Room, Bryan Quickmire will hold an information session on Challenger news and happenings across Canada including the announcement of a new Challenger Light Sport model.

At 11:00 hrs Glenn Kennedy will give a pictorial travelogue titled Challenger Superior Challenge. Last June with only 120 hours total time logged Glenn set off alone on a thousand mile amphibious voyage from Edenvale up and along the wild north shore of Lake Superior to his family cottage on Lake of the Woods near Kenora. Not bad for his first cross-country!

At 14:00 hrs in the Quebec Room, the dynamic duo of Dale Erhart and Darwin Dzuba from Comox, B.C. will team up to offer their experiences with Challenger building and flying on the West Coast. Dale will present "From F-18 to A340 to Global Express – A Challenger Pilot's Perspective". Darwin will share insights into the assembly of his meticulously crafted Challenger.

Also at 14:00 hrs, in the opposite conference room, called the Ontario Room, Mr. Daniel Sasseville from Aéro Propulsion Technologies in St-Lazare, QC, will offer an expert presentation on the proper care and feeding of Rotax engines.

At 15:30 hrs, following a refreshment break, Rob Lake of Lake Aviation in Kingston, ON, will use pictures and words to detail his recent assembly of a new Challenger Light Sport XS-50. As well he will elaborate on its flying qualities as compared to classic Challengers. Rob will also discuss the assembly of a Challenger Light Sport XL-65 which he began after completing the XS-50. Rob has assembled all the major Challenger models, new and old, 582 and 503, so he will be a great source of technical information. Rob and Bryan Quickmire will be available for questions and answers after Rob's presentation.

Also at 15:30 hrs, 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 regulatory directions in Canada and the United States. 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 give his thoughts on the latest trends in the world of personal aviation.

Finally, the evening's post-banquet entertainment will feature a presentation by Kevin Brown, Claude Roy and Patrick Vinet about their float flying pilgrimage to Greenville, Maine, this past summer to participate in the 39<sup>th</sup> edition of the biggest seaplane fly-in in the world ( see [www.seaplanefly-in.org](http://www.seaplanefly-in.org) )

**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 21st Rendez-Vous was held in this same venue. The weather was quite beautiful on the Saturday and Sunday, but the weather forecast was terrible from Monday onwards, persuading many from afar to just drive instead of flying to the event – and staying there for a few additional days.

A sizeable group of 27 Challengers was on site throughout the weekend. A total of 71 airplanes enjoyed the beautiful weather and ice conditions. Attendance at the Saturday evening banquet was great, as a group of 123 people enjoyed a superb meal in excellent company.

Mr. John Baker in his 2004 Challenger II C-IRJZ won the “Farthest Flown” Award for his flight to Montebello from Oshawa, Ontario. Mr. David Sankey won the “Best Show Plane” Award for his beautifully restored 1993 Challenger II C-FTZP. 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 Bob Robertson of Light Engine Services and Aero Controls in Salmon Arm, B.C. Finally, the prestigious “Maurice Vinet” Award, honouring a Challenger pilot who exemplifies the passion for flight of the late Maurice Vinet, went to Bernie and Shelley Rector from East Coast Ultralight in Lawrencetown, Nova Scotia.

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](mailto: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 (60) Fairmont rooms for Saturday evening. You can personally reserve one (or many) of these rooms until Friday, 23 December 2011, after which any of the hotel's remaining rooms will be on a "first come, first serve" basis at the regular rates. Price wise, the hotel offers us a very special group rate of \$195.00 per room per night (many rooms have two double beds). This is a real bargain considering the luxury and comfort of this hotel. Chateau Montebello also offers an impressive selection of recreational facilities for the whole family to enjoy. You can make your hotel reservations by either calling the Fairmont Hotel Reservation Centre at 1-800-441-1414 or faxing your request directly to Le Château 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 one 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.

Again this year, 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, 30th January 2012. Therefore, I need a firm commitment of your presence to the banquet one week prior to the event by Friday, 27 January 2012. Your confirmation will be in the form of a personal cheque sent to me at the earliest convenience and dated 27 January 2012 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 2012. 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 "Snow 'n Fun" as we celebrate our Canadian winter and all the flying opportunities it provides us.

Personally in 2012, I plan to organise another summer float flying adventure. This will be the longest and most ambitious group flight to date. This flying adventure, dubbed "Going Deep South", will bring us south of Birmingham, Alabama, to visit Challenger owner Dave Cunningham's own seaplane base on Lay Lake, in central Alabama (ICAO identifier 46AL, GPS coordinates N33 11.657, W086 27.812).

It is rare to have any Challenger owner who is also the owner of a seaplane base. It is also quite rare to have such a gentleman go on a limb and invite all his Canadian Challenger friends to come and visit, with a date to boot! How can we refuse such an invitation?

The whole adventure will stretch about 2,500 statute miles, will likely depart on Saturday, 15 September 2012, from the Ottawa area and will stretch over a period of three (3) weeks. This particular adventure requires all participating pilots to have a minimum of 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 2013 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](http://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 2012.

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