

Carp, Ontario
Friday, 7 December, 2012

Dear Challenger owners and friends:

**INVITATION TO THE 23rd ANNUAL
ICOA WINTER WEEKEND RENDEZ-VOUS
“30 YEARS OF CHALLENGERS”**

Again this year, with the help of Mr. Bryan Quickmire of National Ultralight Inc., Canadian Distributor of the Challenger aircraft series and the help of members of the COPA Flight 121 (Carleton Place, ON), I am organising the annual International Challenger Owners Association (ICOA Canada) Winter Weekend Rendez-Vous. This is the 23rd edition of our event and we will celebrate 30 years of producing, operating and enjoying the Quad City Challenger.

This fun-filled ski plane event will be held on the weekend of Friday, 1st February, to Sunday, 3 February 2013, 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 Inc. Starting at 11:00 hrs in the Quebec Room, Bryan Quickmire and friends will help us reminisce about "30 years of Challengers", how the Challenger came into being 30 years ago and how it progressed through time to become Canada's most popular ultralight. Bryan will also give us the very latest on Challenger news and happenings across Canada.

At 14:00 hrs in the Quebec Room, a representative of The Magnes Insurance Group will be present to talk to us about their own view of the aviation insurance world, how it all ties up together and how it offers you peace of mind while you are flying.

Also at 14:00 hrs, in the opposite conference room, called the Ontario Room, Mr. Rob Archibald, Life Cycle Manager for the ADS-B and MLAT, Nav Canada, will give us a high level information presentation about ADS-B (Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast) and MLAT (Multilateration). From his unique perspective as a Challenger owner, Rob will demystify ADS-B and MLAT, how it works, who uses it and how it is used by controllers. He will tell us how these new technologies will influence the future of light plane VFR pilots.

At 15:30 hrs, following refreshments, a Challenger-oriented technical presentation will take place in the Ontario Room. The main presenter will be confirmed later.

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 summer float flying trip entitled "The Deep South Adventure" when they responded to an invitation from an American friend and Challenger owner by flying their own Canadian Challengers to Lay Lake, Alabama.

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 22nd Rendez-Vous was held in this same venue. The weather was great during the weekend, but it was not long enough to entice the long-range fliers to come from afar. Still, a sizeable group of 32 Challengers was on site throughout the weekend. A total of 90 airplanes were spotted enjoying the beautiful weather and ice conditions. At the Saturday evening banquet, 132 people enjoyed a superb meal in excellent company.

This year, the combination of Ed and Rob de Nijs won the "Farthest Flown" Award for their father-and-son flight of two

Challenger Light sports to Montebello from their farm near Windsor, Ontario. Again, by popular vote, the Light Sport Challenger XL-65 C-IPRC built by team de Nijs won the "Best Show Plane" Award. 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 Rob Lake of Lake Aviation in Kingston, Ontario. Finally, the prestigious "Maurice Vinet" Award, honouring a Challenger pilot who exemplifies the passion for flight of the late Maurice Vinet, went this time around to the de Nijs family: Ed and Betty, Rob and Erin, as well as Chris and Kara were present to receive their well-earned trophy.

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 (60) Fairmont rooms for Saturday evening. You can personally reserve one (or many) of these rooms until Friday, 21 December 2012, 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 \$199.00 per room per night (many rooms have two double beds). This is a real bargain considering the luxury and comfort of this hotel. Le Château 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, le 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, 28 January 2013. Therefore, I need a firm commitment of your presence to the banquet one week prior to the event by Friday, 25 January 2013. Your confirmation will be in the form of a personal cheque sent to me at the earliest convenience and dated 25 January 2013 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 or family schedule for this special event, making this one your best and most important Challenger activity in 2013. 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 "30 Years of Challengers" as we celebrate this momentous achievement.

Personally in 2013, I plan to organise another summer float flying adventure. This year, Canadian Challengers have been invited to celebrate "30 years of Challengers" by flying to The Quad City Challenger Headquarters in Moline, Illinois. The whole adventure will depart from the Ottawa (ON) area and will stretch about 2,000 statute miles. Departure time will likely be on the morning of Saturday, 14 September 2013, and will stretch over a period of two (2) 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 2014 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 . This is my last year of distributing a mailed paper copy of this invitation to you, so be sure to leave an email address of where to reach you on the Challenger website notification list, so we can send you an automatic email invitation of this event next year 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 2013.

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