

Carp, Ontario
Friday, 25 November, 2016

To all Challengers owners and enthusiasts:

**INVITATION TO THE 27th ANNUAL
ICOA WINTER WEEKEND RENDEZ-VOUS
“MONTEBELLO MAGIC!”**

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 many COPA members, COPA Flight 121 (Carleton Place, ON), is organising the annual International Challenger Owners Association (ICOA Canada) Winter Weekend Rendez-Vous. This is the 27th edition of this event and we will celebrate this year the fact that so many Challenger and ultralight owners over the years have made Montebello such a magic place for gathering and sharing.

This fun-filled ski plane event will be held on the weekend of Friday, 27 January, to Sunday, 29 January 2017, at the beautiful Fairmont 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. Starting at 11:00 hrs in the Quebec Room, Bryan Quickmire will give you the very latest on all the Challenger news and happenings across Canada.

At 14:00 hrs in the Ontario Room, Claude Roy from Ottawa, Ontario, will give us a safety-oriented presentation with a catching title: "Flying, a game you must win". Himself an ultralight flyer since 1984 and a flight instructor since 1985, Claude has 5,600 flying hours aboard ultralights and would like to share his personal experience with you.

Also at 14:00 hrs, in the Quebec Room, Kathy Lubitz, President of the Ultralight Pilots Association of Canada (UPAC), will give us an update on the state of ultralight flying in Canada, what are the main challenges we face and what's in store over the near future for the ultralight community.

After the afternoon refreshments, at 15:30 hrs in the Quebec Room, Darwin Dzuba from Courtenay, British Columbia, will give us a great photo presentation about "High flying the Mountain Lakes of B.C."

Meanwhile, in the Ontario Room, at 15:30 hours, Mr. Jim Bell from Winnipeg, Manitoba, will give a presentation entitled "GET FOUND! Help SAR help you" which will emphasize your best survival strategies after you have landed, following an emergency. Jim Bell, the Manitoba & Nunavut Director of the COPA, is a Challenger owner since 2005.

Finally, the evening's post-banquet entertainment will feature Dale Erhart from Courtenay, British Columbia, and a presentation entitled "The Vimy Project". Being an experienced, military, civilian and corporate pilot as well as a Challenger ultralight pilot, Dale embarked on an ambitious project to build a WW1 replica Nieuport 11 with the intention of flying this vintage-style aircraft over Vimy Ridge, France, this coming April 2017.

Montebello Radio Frequencies

**En route: 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 26th Winter Weekend Rendezvous was held in this same venue. On the weekend of the event, the temperature was not the best. There was precipitation on Friday and on Monday, making it difficult for any long-range flyer to get there... or back! Fortunately, Saturday was a nice day and the locals came in great numbers. We all enjoyed these nice conditions.

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 all other Challenger owners to join them along the route and/or 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 thirty (30) Fairmont rooms for Friday evening and sixty (60) rooms for Saturday evening. You can personally reserve one (or many) of these rooms **until Friday, 30 December 2016**, 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 \$225.00 per room per night (many rooms have two double beds). This is a good price considering the luxury and comfort of this hotel. The Fairmont 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.

This year again, the price for the banquet is \$60.00 per adult and \$30.00 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, 23 January 2017. Therefore, I need a firm commitment of your presence to the banquet one week prior to the event by Friday, 20 January 2017. Your confirmation will be in the form of a personal cheque sent to me at the earliest convenience and dated 20 January 2017 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. 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 2017. 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.

Personally in 2017, I plan to organise another summer float flying adventure. This trip will be called the "Return to Alabama". Like in 2012, the US adventure will depart from the Ottawa (ON) area and 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).

This round trip will stretch about 5,000 kilometres. Departure time will likely be on the morning of Saturday, 5 August 2017, 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 2018 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 come forward with their salutations and questions. Montebello is an ideal venue 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. Be sure to leave an email address of where to reach you on the Challenger website notification list, so we can send you an advance notice and regular updates on all of our activities.

My wife Joan joins me in wishing you all "Season's Greetings" and lots of good flying in 2017.

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