

Carp, Ontario
Friday, 28 November 2008

Dear Challenger owners and friends:

**INVITATION TO THE 19th ANNUAL
ICOA WINTER WEEKEND RENDEZ-VOUS
“100 YEARS OF CANADIAN ULTRALIGHT FLYING”**

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 19th 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, 30 January, to Sunday, 1st February 2009, at the beautiful Chateau Montebello, 392 rue Notre Dame, Montebello, QC. The GPS co-ordinates for the hotel's location are N 45 39 W 74 57.

This year, our Rendez-Vous will feature at least three Saturday "hangar flying" sessions. At 11:00 in the Quebec Room, Bryan Quickmire, Challenger distributor for Canada, along with dealers Bill Dawes of Ottawa and Mike and Tracy Hughes of Edmonton will provide an update on Challenger developments and will field questions on all aspects of owning and operating the Challenger. This session is sponsored by Bill Dawes of Challenger Ottawa. Refreshments will be served.

At 14:00 there will be two concurrent sessions. In the Ontario Room, Mike and Tracy Hughes of Challenger West in Alberta, will "show and tell" about flying their newly acquired Challenger C-IROC all the way home to Edmonton from the Challenger 25th Anniversary celebrations in Illinois. In the Quebec Room, 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 and the ongoing airspace reviews. 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 give us his thoughts on the latest trends in the world of aviation. A refreshment break will follow.

At 15:30 there will be two more concurrent sessions. In the Quebec Room, Patrick Gilligan, Vice President Operations, Canadian Owners and Pilots Association (COPA) will review the new 406 MHz Emergency Location Transmitters and Personal Locator Beacons as well as the new technology SPOT satellite tracking service. In the Ontario Room, LCol (Ret.) Carl Mills, originally from London, ON, and now living in Toronto, will give us a presentation on the Silver Dart to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the first powered flight in Canada in February 1909.

Finally, the evening's post-banquet presentation will feature a presentation by Henry McKinlay, Bryan Quickmire, Keith Robinson, Claude Roy and Patrick Vinet, about their float flying pilgrimage to Moline, Illinois, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Challenger this past summer.

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 18th Rendez-Vous was held in this same venue. The weather was crisp and cold on Friday, sunny on Saturday, with a return to cloudy conditions for Sunday. A total of at least 65 aircraft, including at least 25 Challengers, made it to Montebello 2008 and all returned home safely. Attendance at the Saturday evening banquet was great, as a group of over 150 people enjoyed a superb meal in excellent company.

Mr. Rob Mathers won the 2008 "Farthest Flown" Award for his flight to Montebello from Windsor, Ontario. Mr. Patrick Caron, who flew from Sherbrooke, Quebec, won the "Best Show Plane" Award for his beautiful 2002 Challenger II registered C-ITCI. 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 the duo of Jean-Claude and Pauline Lachance of Turbulence Aviation Inc. from Val-David, Quebec. Finally, the prestigious "Maurice Vinet" Award, honouring a Challenger pilot who exemplifies the passion for flight of the late Maurice Vinet, went to Larry Whittaker from Kugluktuk, Nunavut.

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 eighty (80) Fairmont rooms. You can personally reserve one (or many) of these rooms until Monday, 31 December 2008, 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 \$180.00 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, again this year, is \$50.00 per adult and \$25.00 per child (under 12), including 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, 26 January 2009. Therefore, I need a firm commitment of your presence to the banquet one week prior to the event by Friday, 23 January 2009. Your confirmation will be in the form of a personal cheque sent to me at the earliest convenience and dated 23 January 2008 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 2009. 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 "100 years of Canadian ultralight flying". Many of you will recall that the very first flight made in Canada by a powered heavier-than-air machine was done by J.A.D. McCurdy on 23 February, 1909, aboard a pusher biplane called the Silver Dart from the frozen surface of Bras d'Or Lake in Baddeck, Nova Scotia. And it sure was of the weight and performance of an ultralight!

Personally in 2009, I plan to organise another two-week float flying adventure this summer to commemorate the very beginnings of Canadian ultralight aviation. The goal is to fly to Baddeck, Nova Scotia, respectfully put our floats into Bras d'Or Lake and take time to visit the Alexander Graham Bell Museum, dedicated to the famous inventor of the telephone and the man who formed the Aerial Experiment Association, leading to the successful flight of the Silver Dart.

This adventure will stretch over 2,000 statute miles will likely depart on Saturday, 15 August, 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 2010 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 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 2009!

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