

From: **Webmaster VCF**  
To: **webmaster@vansaircraft.com**  
Subject: **French context - RV builders**  
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First I'd like to introduce myself. I am a French lady builder, into my 6th year on my RV-8, almost finished – might fly in 2009. Building the airplane has been an extremely enriching experience and has allowed me to meet some great people.

As the newly elected president of our builders group, the Van's Club de France (VCF) , I thought I'd bring you up to date as to what's going on in France RV wise. But first, our web site has changed. The new domain name is [www.vansclubdefrance.fr](http://www.vansclubdefrance.fr) , the old .org domain is no longer valid. Could you possibly modify your link ?

There are currently approximately 100+ builders/owners of RVs in France, half of whom are members of the VCF. There are two web sites which address the RV community, ours which serves members of our group, and RVFrance (<http://jccrv6.free.fr/> ) which is Jean Claude Chauvet's contribution to the RV community in general.

The VCF was created in 2004 by 14 builders/owners, including Lucien Rochet who has been flying his RV8 for almost 8 years now. We have since held yearly fly ins which the British love to attend. Our last one in the Burgundy region of France, organized by a vineyard owner who build an 8, was a big success. We had 86 registrations . You can see photos of our flyins under the 'rassemblements' menu of our web site.

We are also very active vis à vis the French authorities to defend our right to build RVs as French homebuilt law allows only two categories of homebuilts : complete kits which include everything (engine, electrical, avionics) and plans built. The problem with complete kits is that the kit supplier must deposit a complete file with the French authorities (DGAC). The supplier is in effect the builder. With plans built construction, the builder is the person who builds the airplane and has the legal responsibility as to serviceability. Since RVs contain a lot of pre-manufactured components there was a risk that the DGAC should require that a kit submission be filed with them. This of course would have stopped all new RV construction in France. Lucien and I went to the DGAC and showed them what it really means to build an RV – they accepted the fact that it required substantial work and that it was a lot more than an assembly process despite the matched hole technology. They consequently categorized RVs as being plans built . The flip side of things is that quick builds are not allowed in France. The UK has different rules which do allow quickbuilds. Other European countries have yet different rules.

One last item : the French equivalent of EAA is the RSA (FFPLUM for ultralights) with whom the VCF works closely.

That's it in a nutshell.

Thanks for supplying us with great airplanes and best wishes for the New Year.

Regards,  
Michèle Delsol,  
Webmaster Van's Club de France  
[ Webmaster at vansclubdefrance.fr ]  
RV8 – SN 81963

PS - In the photo, it is I in 2003 trying out Lucien Rochet's RV8 for size. I absolutely loved it and am happy to report that I am now 95% into my own standard built 8 but that last 5% seems to be taking forever.

