



American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

# Lord of the Rings: The Cassini Mission to Saturn

A Dinner Meeting with Todd Barber (NASA JPL)

## Abstract:



Cassini's mission to the ringed planet will be covered in detail. Topics covered include the Cassini spacecraft design, trajectory to Saturn, cruise science results, Saturn Orbit Insertion, and science results from the four-year prime mission. Discussions of the two-year extended mission (the Cassini Equinox Mission) and seven-year doubly extended mission (the Cassini Solstice Mission) will be covered as well. Images and videos highlighting Cassini results at Saturn will be presented, covering Cassini's five coequal science objectives of understanding Saturn's rings, magnetosphere, icy satellites, large moon Titan, and Saturn itself.

## Speaker bio:

Todd Barber is a JPL senior propulsion engineer, wrapping up two decades as lead propulsion engineer on the Cassini mission to Saturn, following part-time work on the Mars Exploration Rover (MER) mission, Deep Impact mission, and the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) mission, which landed the large rover Curiosity on the red planet on August 5th, 2012. Cassini was launched on October 15, 1997 on its two-billion-mile, seven-year journey to the ringed planet. It recently "took the plunge" into Saturn's atmosphere after thirteen years in orbit around Saturn. The MER team launched twin rovers to the red planet in June and July of 2003, and Opportunity is still going strong over nine years after landing. Todd also worked as the lead impactor propulsion engineer on Deep Impact, which successfully crashed into Comet Tempel-1 on Independence Day, 2005, at twenty-threethousand miles per hour.



**When:** April 26, 7pm

**Where:** Michael's at Shoreline, 2960 N Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View

## Schedule:

6:30 Doors open

7:00 Dinner starts

7:30 Speaker presentation

## Registration and more information:

<https://aiaa-sf.org/>

Members: \$25, Non-members: \$35, Students: \$15

Please RSVP by April 19, because prices will go up after that day!

The dinner will be buffet style.

