

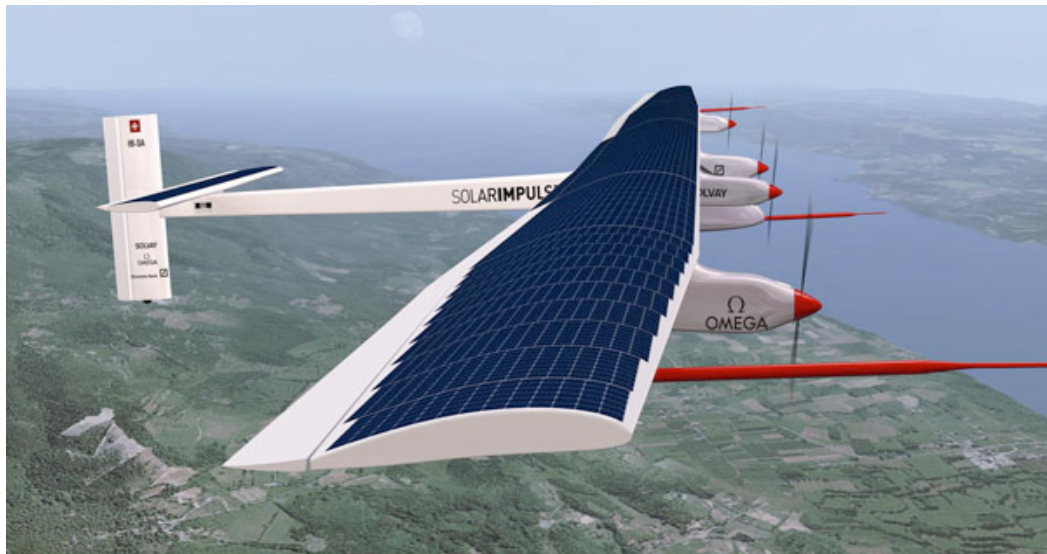


Explorers Club Members are invited to a personal viewing and tour of the "SOLAR IMPULSE" at Mountain View Calif.

MONDAY 29 April 1300-1400 / Moffett Field

***Meet at 1230, we leave at 1245! from Ellis St.**

parking lot just inside guard gate to right/ Ellis St exits directly off Hwy 101 north or south



FLYING WITH THE SUN

Solar Impulse. Even the name sounds alive – exciting!

And what is **Solar Impulse**? A delicate, featherweight aircraft made mostly of carbon fiber with 11,628 photovoltaic cells on its horizontal stabilizer and upper surface of its 208-foot wing (just three feet less than that of a Boeing 747-400). Under the wing are four nacelles, each with a set of lithium polymer batteries that generate 10 hp each, and a twin-bladed propeller that uses the solar energy equivalent of a small motorcycle. The entire aircraft weighs a mere 3,527-pounds – less than the average family car – and has a cruising speed of 43 mph, the average speed of a scooter.

A concept born in Switzerland by Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg, it has been described as a “beautifully simple airplane”, known by its Swiss aircraft identification as HB-SIA. It's mission is a voyage to see what man can do and what lies around the next corner of man's knowledge – exploring what solar technology can really do, and just how far it will take us – literally and figuratively. And how? On the wings of a delicate craft powered by no less than the Sun itself.

And now, after three years of flight tests, from Switzerland to Spain and Morocco, countdown has begun for Piccard, Borschberg and the **Solar Impulse**.

Weather permitting the **Solar Impulse** is scheduled to begin a transcontinental flight departing on May 1 from CA and ending in NY, with planned stops *en route*. While theoretically possible to fly nonstop, it's a single-pilot aircraft and is therefore limited by human endurance.

The excitement that's starting to surround this is almost palpable – and that something so potentially world-shaping is happening so close to home makes one sit back in awe.

A first? Absolutely! And, of particular interest to members of The Explorers Club, the man who co-created the **Solar Impulse** was the Keynote Speaker at the 2012 Lowell Thomas Dinner, Dr. Bertrand Piccard – co-pilot of the first non-stop balloon circumnavigation around the globe for which he received the Lowell Thomas award in 1999.

So what is exploration? Dr. Piccard feels that the traditional definitions of “exploration” and “pioneer” are now defunct. He believes individuals who successfully demonstrate the energy potential of clean technologies such as solar power, wind power and biofuel, will define the future.

To that end, his ultimate goal is to circumnavigate the world without using a single drop of fossil fuel in 2015.

Explorers Club members will have a rare opportunity to gather at Moffett Field and see this amazing aircraft up close- We now have the chance to stand close - the manifestation of the dream and a flying example of how far that dream can take us. Along with its co-creators, **Solar Impulse** will surely find its place as yet another photo on the Explorers Club walls of honor.

DETAILS / SIGN-UP - read carefully, Questions?? Call Rick Saber 415-457-0345

Any participating Member (Explorer or Public) **must** be pre-registered no later than 48 hours prior to entry onto the Moffett Field due to Security.

No ticket, no entry due to security.

TICKET - Required Pre-Registration & request for free tickets. can be accomplished by accessing

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/6248849477>

(*I printed out tickets for myself and wife with no hassles /Rick Saber)

after printing your tickets, you **MUST** contact our Treasurer to be added to the master list of participants: Joan Boothe hoodooskr@aol.com / or call her direct at 415.346.5934

COST – probably zero – we plan to convoy participants on to and off the Field in our won cars, otherwise minimal, only charge will be for a shuttle bus which will not likely be needed

DO BRING Light jacket – we will be inside a very **COOL** Hangar despite the temperature outside

MEETING PLACE- in parking lot immediately adjacent and right of Ellis St guarded gate

Directions – meet 1230. No Later than 1245 to join convoy from the parking lot immediately to right after entry through Ellis St. Guard Gate

From Highway 101: Exit at Ellis Street off Hwy 101, proceed to Ellis St Guard Gate, park immediately to right and look for fellow Explorers

***once off Hwy 101 (Bayshore Freeway) on Ellis St, you will be pointed at the nearest hangar, meet in parking lot immediately to right of Ellis St Gate**