

Astronomy Nights on Mt. Tamalpais

2017 MT TAM ASTRONOMY PROGRAMS our 29th year on the mountain

Presented by Mt Tamalpais State Park, Friends of Mt Tam, Wonderfest, San Francisco Amateur Astronomers

<p>April 29 8:30pm</p>	<p>Alex Filippenko, Professor of Astronomy, UC Berkeley *** The All-American Total Solar Eclipse of August 2017 ***</p> <p>A total solar eclipse is one of nature's most magnificent spectacles. On August 21, 2017, for the first time in 38 years, the very narrow path of a total solar eclipse falls across the continental US. Come learn about total solar eclipses and how to view this one!</p>
<p>May 27 8:30pm</p>	<p>Thomas Targett, Asst. Professor of Physics & Astronomy, Sonoma State University *** Popular Myths of Astronomy ***</p> <p>Much of what we think we know about space comes from film and television, but Hollywood's job is more often to entertain than to educate. In this presentation, we will sort fact from fiction, taking a tour through the worlds of Star Trek, Star Wars, and much more.</p>
<p>June 17 8:30pm</p>	<p>MOVIE NIGHT Screening of the 2013 science fiction film *** "Gravity" ***</p> <p>Starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney as NASA astronauts stranded in orbit, this tense film earned 7 Oscars at the 2014 Academy Awards, including Best Director for Alfonso Cuarón.</p>
<p>July 1 8:30pm</p>	<p>Alan Agrawal, Mount Diablo Astronomical Society *** Heavenly Vision: Galileo's Telescopes & Observations ***</p> <p>Galileo Galilei developed a new method for reliably comprehending the world around us and, accordingly, has been called the father of modern science. We will learn how Galileo's celestial observations dramatically changed our understanding of the universe and our place in it.</p>

<p>July 29 8:30pm</p>	<p>Jay GaBany, President & CEO, Advanced Imaging Conference</p> <p>*** <i>Astrophotography for Everyone</i> ***</p> <p>Advances in recent decades have allowed amateur astronomers to produce deep space and planetary pictures that rival those taken by professional observatories. This presentation will provide an overview of off-the-shelf instruments and methods anyone, with perseverance and patience, can use to take amazing astronomical images.</p>
<p>Aug 26 8:30pm</p>	<p>Carol Stoker, Planetary Scientist, NASA Ames Research Center</p> <p>*** <i>The Search for Life Beyond Earth</i> ***</p> <p>Besides Earth, several planetary bodies in our solar systems are recognized as having the potential to host primitive forms of life. This talk will describe why and how NASA plans to search for life on Mars and the icy moons of Jupiter and Saturn.</p>
<p>Sept 23 8:00pm</p>	<p>Natalie Batalha, Research Astronomer, NASA Ames Research Center</p> <p>*** <i>Life in the Goldilocks Zone</i> ***</p> <p>Discoveries by NASA's Kepler Mission suggest there are billions of potentially habitable worlds in the Milky Way galaxy. What has the study of planets within and beyond the Solar System taught us about our own planet Earth? And what's next in the search for life beyond the Solar System?</p>
<p>Oct 28 7:30pm</p>	<p>Blake Sherwin, NASA Einstein Fellow, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab</p> <p>*** <i>Seeing the Beginning: Insights from the Cosmic Microwave Background</i> ***</p> <p>Do you ever wish we could look back in time? We can, by studying the cosmic microwave background (CMB), which reveals the fiery early universe when it was only 0.003% of its present age. This talk will show how studying the CMB allows us to learn about the origin, composition, and ultimate fate of the universe.</p>