

## 2017 MT Tam State Park – Astronomy Program Schedule

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### **Apr 29, 8:30pm — The All-American Total Solar Eclipse of August 2017**

**Alex Filippenko, Professor of Astronomy, UC Berkeley**

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!

### **May 27, 8:30pm — Popular Myths of Astronomy**

**Thomas Targett, Asst. Professor of Physics & Astronomy, Sonoma State University**

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.

### **Jun 17, 8:30pm — Sci-Fi Movie Night**

Enjoy a screening under the stars of the 2013 film *Gravity*, starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney as astronauts who are stranded in space after the mid-orbit destruction of their space shuttle, and their subsequent attempt to return to Earth.

### **July 1, 8:30pm— Heavenly Vision: Galileo's Telescopes & Observations**

**Alan Agrawal, Mount Diablo Astronomical Society**

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.

### **Jul 29, 8:30pm — Seeing the Beginning: Insights from the Cosmic Microwave Background**

**Blake Sherwin, NASA Einstein Fellow, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab**

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.

### **Aug 26, 8:30pm — The Search for Life Beyond Earth**

**Carol Stoker, Planetary Scientist, NASA Ames Research Center**

Besides Earth, several planetary bodies in our solar system 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 on the icy moons of Jupiter and Saturn.

### **Sep 23, 8:00pm — Life in the Goldilocks Zone**

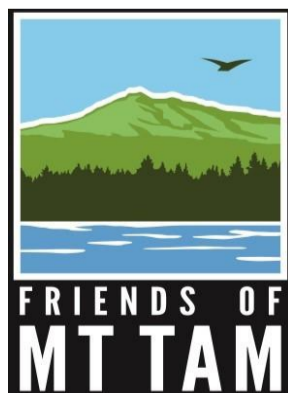
**Natalie Batalha, Research Astronomer, NASA Ames Research Center**

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?

### **Oct 28, 7:30pm — Astrophotography for Everyone**

**Jay GaBany, President & CEO, Advanced Imaging Conference**

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.



Learn more at

[www.FriendsofMtTam.org](http://www.FriendsofMtTam.org)

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