



2013 Public Astronomy Programs on Mount Diablo

presented by Mount Diablo State Park,
Mount Diablo Astronomical Society (MDAS),
Mount Diablo Observatory Association

DATE 2013	Program Starts	SPECIAL EVENT AND TOPIC
Mar 16	7:00 PM	WATCH FOR THE COMET! Where do comets come from? Could you eat a comet? We'll cook up a comet and give you the recipe. Watch for Comet Pan-STARRS in the western sky. This could be the first of two beautiful comets this year!
Apr 20	7:00 PM	ARE WE ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE? What will the first alien life we discover likely look like? Explore where weird life exists on Earth. What does that tell us about life elsewhere in the universe? Which stars have planets where life might exist?
May 18	7:30 PM	SEE THE RINGS OF SATURN: Here's your chance to see Saturn and the moons of Jupiter through a telescope. Make a Solar System model to keep in your pocket and then explore the rest of the universe as you tour the telescopes.
Jun 15	8:00 PM	STARS: OUR FAMILY SCRAPBOOK: Infant stars, ancient stars, hard-working stars, stars with broods of planets. Take a look through the telescopes to discover our galaxy's family of stars.
Jul 13	8:00 PM	EXPLORE OUR MAGNETIC SUN: Arrive at 7:30 to safely view the Sun through telescopes. How can the Sun affect cell phones and create auroras? Why does the Sun have spots? After sunset, we'll watch all the other stars appear!
Aug 10	7:30 PM	BLACK HOLES! What happens to a spaceship that falls into a black hole? What would happen to Earth if the Sun was replaced by a black hole? If we can't see black holes, how do we know they are there? Where are the black holes in our Galaxy?
Sep 14	6:30 PM	GO INSIDE A TELESCOPE: How do telescopes work? Take an look inside and learn about 400-year-old technology still in use today.
Oct 12	6:00 PM	ROCKS & ICE IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM: Comets, meteors, and asteroids: how are they different, how are they related? Hold real meteorites – rocks from space – in your hand.

Program: Participate in hands-on astronomy activities, followed by supervised observing through the many different telescopes of MDAS members to view the Moon, planets, stars, galaxies and more.

Time: Evening, beginning about an hour before sunset and lasting up to several hours. Plan to enter the park gate at least 45 minutes before the program starts.

Where: Lower Summit parking lot of Mt. Diablo State Park

Cost: The astronomy program is free; there is a park entry fee.

Bring: Kids, binoculars, warm clothes (temperature can drop significantly), snacks, water. If you bring a flashlight, please cover it with red cellophane, red cloth, or a red balloon.

Leaving: The Park gates will be locked and visitors will only be able to leave the summit and exit the park by escorted caravans through the North Gate several times during the evening. Caravans will be announced at various intervals during the program and visitors should only leave with these escorts.



NOTE: Astronomy Program is weather permitting (including "High Fire Danger"). Rain cancels. Go to: <http://www.mdas.net> and click on **Event Calendar** or call Mt. Diablo State Park – 925-837-2525.

Mount Diablo Astronomical Society: www.mdas.net
A proud member of the NASA Night Sky Network: <http://nightskynetwork.net>
Email: outreachinfo@mdas.net