



# 2015 Public Astronomy Programs on Mount Diablo

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

DATE 2015	Program Starts	SPECIAL EVENT AND TOPIC
Mar 21	7:00 PM	<b>STARS AND BUTTERFLIES:</b> How are stars like butterflies? Where did the stars come from? Follow a celestial treasure hunt as you tour the telescopes. <b>BONUS:</b> Get ready for <b>the lunar eclipse the morning of April 4<sup>th</sup>!</b>
Apr 25	7:30 PM	<b>ROCKS &amp; ICE IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM:</b> Comets, meteors, and asteroids: how are they different, how are they related? Hold real meteorites – rocks from space – in your hand.
May 23	7:30 PM	<b>PLANETS OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM:</b> Here's your chance to explore THREE planets PLUS our Moon through the telescopes. Make a Pocket Solar System and imagine what it would be like to live on other worlds.
Jun 20	8:00 PM	<b>SUPERNOVA!</b> Why do some stars explode? Which star is next? Would you exist without supernovae? Take home a sky map of stars will explode as supernovae.
Jul 18	7:30 PM	<b>EXPLORE OUR SUN:</b> How does the Sun power Earth? Arrive at 7:30 to safely view the Sun through telescopes. After sunset, view the rest of the stars in our Galaxy.
Aug 15	7:30 PM	<b>OUR PLACE IN OUR GALAXY:</b> Build a mental model of our Milky Way Galaxy – and our place in it. Find the center of our galaxy. Tour the telescopes through our galaxy.
Sep 19	6:30 PM	<b>MOON: EARTH'S LOST ROCK:</b> How would Earth be different without the Moon? How is our Earth like our Moon? Explore the surface of the Moon in telescopes. <b>BONUS:</b> We'll get you ready for <b>the lunar eclipse the evening of September 27<sup>th</sup>. The full moon will rise in eclipse that evening.</b>
Oct 17	6:00 PM	<b>SEARCH FOR ALIEN WORLDS:</b> 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 galaxy? Which stars have planets where life might exist?
<b>2016</b> Mar 26	7:00 PM	<b>First astronomy program of 2016 – mark your calendar!</b>

**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 11:00 p.m. **Plan to enter the park entry 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 or red cloth.

**Leaving:** The Park gates will be locked and visitors will be able to leave the summit and **exit the park only by escorted caravans through the North Gate** a few times during the evening. Caravans will be announced at various intervals during the program and for safety, 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](http://www.mdas.net)

A proud member of the NASA Night Sky Network: <http://nightskynetwork.net>

Email: [outreachinfo@mdas.net](mailto:outreachinfo@mdas.net)