

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



NCGS DINNER MEETING “*The Hunt for Another Earth*”

Speaker: Dr. Geoffrey W. Marcy, Professor of Astronomy
University of California, Berkeley

Wednesday May 30, 2012

6:00 PM at Orinda Masonic Center

(Reservations are required by May 22, 2012, Limit 100 persons)

We are sorry but we will not be able to accommodate “walk-ins”

Stepping out of our normal routine, the **Northern California Geological Society** is pleased to announce this *special dinner and evening* with **Dr. Geoffrey Marcy**. For this unique event, planned for our normal monthly meeting date, but starting one-half hour early, we are planning in typical NCGS style, a **Back Forty Texas BBQ dinner consisting of Pork Ribs and BBQ Chicken, Tossed Green Salad, BBQ Beans, Fresh Corn Cobettes**. For vegetarian dinners a deluxe veggie burger will be served in place of BBQ. Desert will include assorted cookies and brownies. We may be again serving wines from California specials (90 pts +). Please also note that a vegetarian option is available if notified ahead (please see the registration form below).

Abstract: *The Hunt for Another Earth* The new Kepler spaceborn telescope is hunting for Earth-size planets, with hundreds in its sights. Kepler has already found definitively rocky planets, like earth, and is now hunting for habitable ones. This talk will present up-to-the-minute results from the Kepler Team. Biologists are working with astronomers to assess the environmental conditions necessary for life, especially intelligent life, on planets elsewhere in the universe.

Speaker Biography: Dr. Geoff Marcy is a Professor of Astronomy at UC Berkeley and an Adjunct Professor of Physics and Astronomy at San Francisco State University. He is the Director of Berkeley’s “Center for Integrative Planetary Science”, a research unit designed to study the formation, geophysics, chemistry and evolution planets. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the NASA Medal for Exceptional Scientific Achievement. He was named Discovery Magazine’s Space Scientist of the year 2003. He was also co-recipient of the prestigious Shaw Prize. He received his PhD in 1982 from UC Santa Cruz.

Geoff is one of the pioneers and leaders in the discovery and characterization of planets around other stars. He and his collaborators have discovered nearly half of the 450 known exoplanets. They found the first system of multiple planets around a normal (main sequence) star, and also found the first Saturn mass planet and the first Neptune-like planet. They also found the first transiting planet (a co-discovery with T. Brown and D. Charbonneau). His group is now searching for Earth-like planets using NASA’s Kepler Mission and the Keck telescope in Hawaii.

***** Dinner Logistics *****

Meeting Details: Social Hour: 6:00 – 7:00 pm; Dinner: 7:00 – 8:00 pm **Presentation:** 8:00 – open
Time: May 30, 2012, 6:00 pm, Orinda Masonic Center 9 Altarinda Road, Orinda, CA. **Cost: \$25/person**

*****REGISTRATION FORM (Dr. Goeff Marcy’s Dinner)*****

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Phone (day): _____ Phone (cell) _____

Dinner: Regular: _____ Vegetarian: _____ (Please check one) Check Amount: _____

Please mail a check made out to NCGS to: **Tridib Guha; 5016 Gloucester Lane ; Martinez, CA 94553**

Questions: e-mail: tridibguha@yahoo.com Phone: (925) 451-1999