



# San Mateo County Astronomical Society



[Home](#) [Announcements](#) [Meetings](#) [Star Parties](#) [Calendar](#) [Newsletter](#) [Membership](#) [Contact](#) [About](#)

*SMCAS General Meeting and Presentation on Friday March 3, 2023*

## Dr. David Des Marais

Space Scientist, [NASA Astrobiology Institute](#)

### Exploration of Mars for Habitable Environments and Life

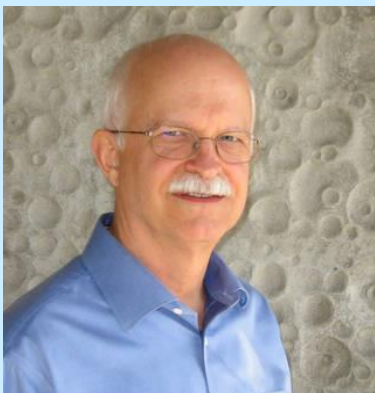
Friday, March 3, 2023, [College of San Mateo, Building 36](#)

SMCAS Pizza Social at 7:00 p.m. ISC Room, room 110

Presentation at 8:00 p.m. [Planetarium](#)

Free and open to the public, free parking (recommend lots S (staff lot) or Q (student lot)).

Recent Mars missions have discovered fascinating landscapes as well as chemicals and minerals formed by the action of liquid water. Mars could have been habitable sometime in the past, and liquid water might persist in some subsurface environments today. Dr. Des Marais will discuss recent missions and discoveries that are helping to identify the most promising places to search for evidence of life.



Dr. David Des Marais is a space scientist with NASA's Astrobiology Program at Ames Research Center. His research interests include carbon biogeochemistry, Earth's early biosphere, and Mars exploration. He investigated the isotope geochemistry of lunar samples, meteorites, and oceanic basalts, as well as the biogeochemistry of microbial communities in hypersaline environments and Earth's geologic record. David is on the science operations team of NASA's Curiosity Rover Mars mission. He has participated in planning for the Mars Exploration Program since 1992. He authored or co-authored 222 technical articles and chapters. He has been a co-leader of the Lassen Astrobiology Student Intern Program since 2008. David was elected fellow of six professional societies and Geochemical Society awarded him the Alfred Treibs Medal for his career achievements in Organic Geochemistry.