



## Chabot Space & Science Center Celebrates Mars Approach

### *MARS MANIA COSTUME PARTY*

Saturday, October 29, 2005, 8 pm – Midnight

OAKLAND, CA (October 4, 2005) — How would you look as a Martian? **Chabot Space & Science Center** invites you to stretch your imagination and dress yourself up as a Martian for a *Mars Mania Costume Party* on Saturday, October 29, 2005, from 8 pm to midnight. Chabot hopes to draw all manner of ET's and Martian wannabes to celebrate in style as the Red Planet makes its approach. Chabot's *Mars Mania Costume Party* will include spooky science experiments, Mars-related hands-on activities, *Count Astro's Haunted Heavens* Halloween planetarium show, the *Mars Encounter* exhibit, scavenger hunts, give-aways, and close-up viewing of Mars through Chabot's telescopes. Tickets for the *Mars Mania Costume Party* are \$13.00 Adult / \$9.00 Youth, Student and Senior, and are available at the Chabot Box Office at 510-336-7373.

On the night of October 29th, Mars will be 43 million miles away and high in the sky for better viewing. Two years ago it was 34 million miles away and low on the horizon. The next time it will be that close (34.8 million miles) is in 2082. Observers can take a close look at the Red Planet with Chabot's large telescopes, including the new 36" reflector, and barring any dust storms, examine surface features such as the bright white polar ice cap and the darker "V" - shaped Syrtis Major. During the weeks leading up to and following the encounter, Mars will shine high and bright in the evening skies. Chabot will be hosting several Mars viewing events, and the telescopes will be open on Friday and Saturday evenings, weather permitting.

Other scheduled events are a Mars lecture and telescope viewing on Thursday, October, 27 and Mars Telescope Viewing on Sunday, October 30.

For more information, call (510) 336-7300, or visit [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)

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