

2018 Free Novice Astronomy Classes

The Peterborough Astronomical Association (PAA) will again present free Novice Astronomy Classes. The classes are held the first Friday of every month, beginning September 7th, 2018, in Peterborough at the Riverview Park and Zoo Rotary Education Centre (just inside the main gates of the Zoo). Classes run from 6:00PM to 6:45PM and are followed by the PAA monthly meeting. Novice class attendees are welcome to attend the meetings.

The classes will introduce you to equipment, software and many other astronomy related subjects. You will get hands on with equipment and learn to use it and other tools of astronomy. You will also learn to locate constellations, stars, planets and other objects in the sky. We will also throw in a self-paced course on viewing the moon.

The only tests you will have to pass are self-administered by going out and applying your new learned knowledge.

Novice Classes Sessions 3-9

Session 3: (Nov.) - Rick Stankiewicz.

1. Setting up and Using Non-Computerized Alt/Az Mounts.
2. Finding your way around the sky.
3. Outreach - working with the public.
4. Using Charts (Nightwatch, Turn Left at Orion, etc.).
5. Q & A

Session 4: (Dec.) - Sean Dunne

1. Setting up and Using Computerized Alt/Az Mounts.
2. Check lists, Alignment, Using the Hand Controller.
3. Viewfinder setup. Care with Batteries. Attaching a Camera.
4. Q and A

Session 5: (Jan.) - Brett Hardy

1. Setting up and Using an Equatorial Mount for Visual Observing.
2. Using a phone, tablet, laptop or built in database.
3. Visual observing tips.
4. Q and A

Session 6: (Feb.) - Rodger Forsyth

1. Cameras and Techniques for Astrophotography.
2. Guiding, Image Processing.
3. Video Astronomy.
4. Q and A

Session 7: (Mar.) - Brian Colville

1. Solar, Lunar, and Planetary Observing.
2. Filters, Photography, Special Telescopes.

3. Precautions.
4. Q and A

Session 8: (April) - Rick + Dixie Shilling

1. Introduction to the RASC - - Explore the Universe.
2. Software Requirements.
3. Q and A

Session 9: (May) - Rick, Dixie, Boyd Wood, Rodger, Brett, Brian

Panel Discussion - "Anything you ever wanted to know about
Observing"

Subject to change - hopefully with notice.

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