

Peterborough Astronomical Association
Monthly Meeting - February 6, 2026 7:00 p.m.
Riverview Park Zoo and Zoom

1. **Welcome** - Peter Curley opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.
 - Attendees - 16 at the Zoo meeting room, 13 additional on Zoom

2. **Update on new PA System**
 - Peter reported that both he and Brett Hardy had evaluated the proposed audio system, found the system to meet the PAA's needs and purchased the components. The new system was up and running for the meeting.
 - As Peter stated, from all reports, the system is working "real good" (sic)!

3. **Introduction/Acknowledgement of Guests & New PAA Members**
 - Two guests were in attendance, Christopher and Chantelle; Christopher found out about the PAA through the newspaper.
 - Brett Hardy welcomed new PAA members Dave Harmon (who had donated a telescope to the club) and Derreck and Ann Siddell.

4. **Amendments & Approval of Agenda**
 - Nick Valentino moved, seconded by Dave Mills that the proposed agenda be approved. Motion carried.

5. **Amendments & Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting**
 - Dave Mills moved, seconded by Nick Valentino that the minutes of the previous meeting (January 2, 2026) be approved. Motion carried.

6. **Announcements**
 - Dave Mills reported that the invoice for the club's insurance had been received, cost for coverage being \$588, requiring approval of PAA members for payment. Rodger Forsyth moved that the invoice be paid, seconded by Nick Valentino. Motion carried.
 - The invoice for Nexicom is also due. Cost for two years is \$344.42. Dave Mills moved that the invoice be paid, seconded by Nick Valentino. Motion carried.
 - Peter Curley highlighted that a Meade 8" LX90 telescope system had been donated to the club and that it would be offered for sale to a PAA member for \$500. Peter stated that the telescope and ancillary equipment originally cost \$3997.40 in 2001. Rodger had done an evaluation of this equipment and published a report, which is available for any member wishing to see it.

7. **Website Registration Form**
 - Nick reported that he had tested the online registration link and found that it was working properly.
 - Rodger questioned which computer system Nick had used, as he had continued to have issues. Rodger suggested that Nick test the system with Windows 11 and Edge, to which Nick agreed.

8. Special Presentation

- In recognition of the many years of dedicated service by 5 members of the PAA, special awards were presented, some in absentia. All recipients were awarded a certificate of appreciation and a \$100 gift card for local restaurants:
 - ☆ Rodger Forsyth
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 - ☆ Michelle Anstett
- In addition to the above awards, special framed laser-engraved plaques, prepared by Rodger Forsyth, were awarded to:
 - ☆ Boyd Wood - 18+ years' volunteer service
 - ☆ Phillip Chee - 14 Years' editor of the PAA Reflector newsletter.

9. Peterborough Petes Hockey Tickets

- Peter Curley announced that 10 PAA members had expressed interest in attending a Petes hockey game, with special group price of \$20 per ticket. Peter suggested that if any other members would like to attend to let him know by email. The date for the game will be the third last game for the Petes in February (February 22nd).

10. Presentation - Walter Gebhart - A Master Class in PixlInsight

- Walter gave a wonderful presentation starting with a summary of his travels in Europe in August 2025 which culminated in a week-long course held in Kalamata, Greece - A Master Class in PixlInsight. The course was offered by the originator of this very intricate image processing software, which he created to enable astrophotographers to take advantage of the capabilities of digital cameras and their inherent ability to "see" frequencies outside those in the range of human vision.
- The instructor was Vicent Peris, originator of the software, assisted by Ulf Buckmeyer, owner of Hellas-Sky observatory in a nearby village.
- Walter provided examples of the capabilities of PixlInsight in improving images, and demonstrated some of the features of the software.

11. The Sky This Month - David Mills

- Dave reported that the Sky This Month (STM) is now online and ready for download.
- Also, a new comet, still outside the solar system but headed our way will traverse the solar system in 2026 and 2027.

12. Coming Observation Sessions - Dianne Denton

- Dianne reported that there were no observation sessions scheduled at present for "frozen fingers", however there are two sessions that have been announced, subject to weather:
 - ☆ Robinson Road Observatory (Rodger Forsyth), sometime between June 7th and June 20th
 - ☆ Alpine Village Park (Dianne's) - between July 10th and 17th.
- Both are on the website.

13. Presentation at Next Meeting - Rodger Forsyth - PiFinder, a tool to assist in locating objects in the night sky.

14. Other business

- Brett Hardy stated that the PAA is again participating in the Peterborough Regional Science Fair at Trent University, this year on Wednesday, April 8th. Brett stated that he will be participating as a judge for projects related to astronomy, and that he would appreciate another person or two to participate. Please let Brett know of your interest.
- The PAA will be providing an award of \$100 to the student project deemed to be the best astronomy-related project, and a year's family membership to the PAA for the runner-up project.
- Chuck mentioned that the PAA observatory at Curve Lake is in poor condition, with rotting floorboards, deemed a safety hazard that needs to be addressed. Peter stated that he would send an email to the executive to address this issue.

15. Next Meeting - Friday, March 6, 2026

16. Adjournment

- Peter requested a motion to end the meeting. Nick moved, seconded by Dave Mills that the meeting be adjourned. Approved.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

prepared by:
David Messervey
PAA Secretary