PAA September 8, 2023 Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Peterborough Astronomical Association's (PAA) will take place **September 8th** as a "**Hybrid Meeting**", both **online** and at our traditional physical location of the **Rotary Education Centre/Guest Services Building, Riverview Park Zoo**. Even these troubled times cannot stop the spread of information and knowledge by the members of the PAA. Our work around involves using a Zoom platform. **To participate** via Zoom, just make sure that in advance, you opened a (free) Zoom account on whatever iphone or tablet or device you wish to participate with and then **contact** https://www.peterboroughastronomy.com/zoom_register.php for the **password and link** to our evenings classes and presentations. If you wish to participate **in-person** you are welcome to do so at the Zoo, but **"masking" is required**, please and thank you!

Our **"Novice Astronomy Classes"** are focused on the practical aspects of learning about astronomy. You will be introduced to astronomy related subjects at a very basic level, but in a logical sequence. This month's session is a continuation of our Astronomy Class Series, **Lesson 16** in the series, "***Trusted Astronomy Resources on the Net***". The Internet is arguably the most important invention of the twentieth century and for many an indispensable part of each day. Yet not all information found there is reliable or accurate. In this lesson we cut through the noise and outline a number of resources you can count on to inform you about the most up to date news and information, plan an observing session, listen to informative podcasts reporting on various aspects of astronomy and provide you with some useful online tools.

The hands-on segment will follow with a demonstration on how to use one of the Peterborough Astronomical Association's beginner telescopes. This interactive session's learning objective is to familiarize beginners with the process on how to assemble and successfully use this telescope confidently under the night sky to locate the Moon, bright stars and planets.

Come join us at the PAA's next Novice Astronomy Class to learn about the night sky and take your first step in becoming acquainted with astronomy. Join us anytime!

If you are even remotely interested, be on-line by **6:00 p.m.** to see what you can learn about the Universe around you. The classes will run about 45 minutes each session, before our regular meeting resumes. There's no obligation to stay for the meeting that follows, but you are more than welcome to if you wish.

Shortly **after 7:00 p.m**. there will be a brief meeting. The main event for this month will be a presentation by club members, entitled **"Loaner Telescopes of the PAA and How to Use Them"**. This month's presentation is a collaborative effort by club members to showcase 5 of the PAA's "loaner" telescopes. The purpose is to familiarize members with how easy it is to setup and use these telescopes in an effort to better utilize this fantastic resource available for free to all members, as part of their membership. The demonstrations will include a *Celestron* - GOTO Newtonian, a *Meade* - 203mm LX90, an *Orion* - Maksutov, a *SkyWatcher* - 150mm Dobsonian and a *Coronado* - Personal Solar Telescope (PST). Why not check this out? You don't need to be a member to see this presentation. The price is right…it costs you nothing but your time.

The **Sky This Month** will be posted on our club website for all to access. This month's **Telescope Roundtable** will be done by member Walter Gebhart. There will also be the usual opportunities to have your questions answered, at no cost. All we ask is that you register in advance at https://www.peterboroughastronomy.com/zoom_register.php This is an all ages meeting and the venue is totally barrier free at the Zoo or just relax at home and "live and learn" as they say. Also, you don't need a telescope to participate, but a curious mind helps.

Keep looking up,

Rick Stankiewicz
Publicity Director,
Peterborough Astronomical Association (PAA)