

PAA June 2, 2023 Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Peterborough Astronomical Association's (PAA) will take place June 2nd, 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" 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 15 in the series, "Essential Astronomy Resources". As you begin your astronomy journey there are a number of indispensable resources and tools that will help you find your way - literally. Your experience under the stars may be less than stellar. In this month's class we take a look at astronomy resources that you will find useful and others that you will not want to be without. In the second half of the class we will have a hands-on lesson on how to get the most from a pair of binoculars. Bring your own binoculars to the class to practice the techniques and compare how your instrument measures up to the features beneficial to astronomy. If you do not have your own binoculars, borrow a pair from a family member or friend. Fear not if you are unable to bring binoculars of your own to the class. There will be binoculars for you to share. 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 is 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 member, Peter Curley, entitled "Winter Star Party". During our cold and sometimes uncooperative Canadian winter there are options for star gazing that do not involve finger-numbing cold...if you go to the Florida Keys for a star party. This presentation will chronicle just such an event, for possibly your future consideration? Let's tag along with Peter as he explains what makes this one of the best star parties on the planet. Why not check this out? 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 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. 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)