

PAA March 3, 2023 Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Peterborough Astronomical Association's (PAA) will take place March 3rd, 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 12 in the series, "Choosing a Telescope". So, you are looking to purchase your first telescope and have more questions than answers? Maybe you already have a telescope that is sitting unused, banished to a corner of a closet gathering dust instead of out under the stars where it belongs. Choosing the right telescope can be a confusing endeavour, especially if you are new to astronomy. There are a myriad of choices and equally baffling terminology. In this month's Novice Astronomy Class we will cut through the advertising hype and acquaint you with the different telescope designs available today and their advantages and disadvantages. You will leave with confidence to select an instrument that will provide years of enjoyment as you explore the night sky. 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 member, Mike McCarthy, entitled "Navigating Stellarium". This month's presentation is an introduction to "Stellarium", which is a free open source planetarium software for your computer. It shows a realistic sky in 3D, just like what you see with the naked eye, binoculars or a telescope. Mike will show you how to navigate this "genie in a bottle" that every astronomer needs to some degree. Why not check this out? The price is right...it costs you nothing but your time. Also, don't miss "Telescope Roundtable" this month, as member Sean Dunne tells us about his telescopic adventures.

The Sky This Month will be posted on our club website for all to access. 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)