

PAA Meeting on January 3, 2025

Please post the following in your appropriate media venue in time to help us advertise our upcoming **“Hybrid Meeting” (in-person, virtual & online)**. We are welcoming people back to our great meeting facilities at the Riverview Zoo, but if you would prefer an online experience it will still remain an option.

The **Monthly Meeting** of the **Peterborough Astronomical Association (PAA)** will kick off a New Year and will take place **January 3rd**, as a **“Hybrid Meeting”**, both **online** and **in-person** at our traditional physical location of the **Rotary Education Centre/Guest Services Building, Riverview Park Zoo**. Nothing can stop the spread of information and knowledge by the members of the PAA, including our ability to accommodate those that can't physically be at the meeting. 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 more than welcome to do so at the Zoo.

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 the start of an all-new Astronomy Class Series, **“Exploring the Messier Objects”**. This list of 110 objects, beloved by amateur astronomers everywhere, contains examples of open clusters, globular clusters, double stars, emission nebulae, reflection nebulae, planetary nebulae, galaxies and a supernova remnant. We will take a look at what these objects are, when they can be observed and various print and online resources to help you plan your next night of observing.

In the second interactive portion of the class, we will take a look at **what an orbit is** and the consequences that ensue from this universal motion.

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.** we will have a **presentation by Trevor Jones on, “An Introduction to Deep-sky Astrophotography”**. Trevor Jones, from **AstroBackyard**, will describe his process of photographing stunning deep-sky objects, like galaxies and nebulae, from his own backyard. From building a beginner-level astrophotography kit to image processing tips and tricks, this presentation will open your eyes to what is now possible using amateur equipment. His simplistic approach will help you avoid the frustration and confusion many astrophotography beginners face and set you on a path to success.

Whether joining us on-line or in-person you will not be disappointed and you will learn lots! Why not check this out? You don't need to be a member to see this presentation or anything else listed. 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.

There will also be the usual opportunities to have your questions answered, at no charge. All we ask is that you either come and see us in person at the Zoo or 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)