

PAA Meeting on January 2, 2025

The **Monthly Meeting** of the **Peterborough Astronomical Association (PAA)** will take place **January 2nd** 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. In this month's Novice Astronomy Class, we **continue with our Solar System Series** to visit the **planet Mars**. Of the eight planets in our solar system, one, more than any other, has dominated the public's imagination. The Romans named it after their god of war because of its ruddy hue. Our fascination with Mars continues today. We will take a look at its formation and evolution, surface features and physical characteristics. Due to Mar's relatively close proximity to Earth, it has been intensely explored with telescopes, orbiters, landers and rovers. Discoveries uncovered from these investigations will be reviewed. Finally, we consider observing opportunities for the red planet in 2026.

During the **interactive segment** of the class, we will examine the **water molecule** and its role as a universal solvent and necessary **ingredient for life**.

Tune in to be enlightened! If you are even remotely interested, be on-line by **6:00 p.m.** to see what you can learn about exploring 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 our President, **Peter Curley**, on **controlling your Seestar** (smart-scope) **with your PC**. Smart-scopes like the Seestar are becoming the wave of the future and many of us can learn a lot from any form of “hack” to make our observing platforms better and easier to use. This should prove to be an interesting presentation.

Whether joining us on-line or in-person you will not be disappointed and you will learn **a lot!** 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.