

PAA Meeting on February 6, 2026

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 will be, **“Is There Anyone Out There?”**, we'll investigate the historical background and technological advancements that bring us to now. Contributions from Enrico Fermi and Frank Drake were instrumental in framing our question of the day. Investigations such as Project Ozma and **SETI** sought to listen for and potentially communicate with, advanced civilizations. Controversial reports from around the world proclaim the search for **ET** is unnecessary—**they** are already here! So, dust off your tin foil hat and join us for a lively discussion of life in the Universe. The truth is out there!

During the **interactive segment** of the class, we will take a deeper dive into the **Drake Equation** and the implications its variables have upon the idea of life beyond Earth.

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 PAA Director-at-large, Walter Gebhart, entitled **"My trip to Kalamata Greece, a Master class in PixInsight"**. This will be a summary of what he learned on a trip to Greece, with this being a partial travel log, who attended, some pictures of an observatory etc. and a little bit of PixInsight's basic astrophoto image manipulation concepts.

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.