

# PAA Meeting on March 6, 2026

The **Monthly Meeting** of the **Peterborough Astronomical Association (PAA)** will take place **March 6<sup>th</sup>** 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](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, *“Aliens Part 2: Is There Anyone Out There?”*, we resume our examination of life in the Universe from last month. After a short summary of the **Drake Equation** activity from February, we move on to consider cosmological and geological prerequisites influencing whether life can arise. Is life an unavoidable outcome given the right conditions and enough time? **Astrobiology** as a legitimate and cutting-edge science is leading the way in determining how we might think about answering this and other questions using Earth as an analogue. Is there life out there with which we might communicate? Plan to join us March 6th to participate in the discussion!

During the **interactive segment** of the class, we will examine how tenacious life can be and its ability to exploit extreme environments.

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 member, Rodger Forsyth**, about **"The PiFinder – Pi in the Sky"**. PiFinder is a plate solving device to assist in aiming a telescope. It is based on a **Raspberry Pi 4B** and is fully self-contained. It takes a photo of the stars that the telescope is aimed at and compares that to a database to determine where the telescope is pointed. With this information it can now guide you to your object of interest.

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](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.