

# PAA Meeting on May 1, 2026

The **Monthly Meeting** of the **Peterborough Astronomical Association's (PAA)** will take place **May 1<sup>st</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. **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 evening's 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 will consider, ***How Far is Far? Astronomical Measurement Systems***, we will explore how light and its properties permit us to precisely calculate distances to objects within our solar system, galaxy and beyond. We will come to see that Earth's orbit and supernovae explosions play a role in measuring distances in space. Knowing the distance to an object tells us something about that location and its position in the Universe. Go the extra lightyear by joining us on May 1st to find out how we get from here to there.

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, **Brian Colville**, entitled **“Something Old is Something New: Amateur Spectroheliographs”**. Since the 1890's astronomers have been studying the “narrow bands” of light from the Sun's spectrum. Advances in technology have enabled amateurs to do the same and Brian will illustrate and explain the evolution of technologies that have enabled a revolution for hobbyists and professionals around the world to study our closest star.

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.