

PAA Meeting on March 1, 2024

Please post the following in your appropriate media venue in time to help us advertise our upcoming **“Hybrid Meeting” (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 remain an option.

The **Monthly Meeting** of the **Peterborough Astronomical Association (PAA)** will take place **March 1st** as a **“Hybrid Meeting”**, both **online** and at our traditional physical location of the **Rotary Education Centre/Guest Services Building, Riverview Park Zoo**. Even these troubled times cannot stop the spread of information and knowledge by the members of the PAA. 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 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 a continuation of our Astronomy Class Series, **Lesson 21** in the series, **“Low Earth Orbit”**. In this month's Novice Astronomy Class, we will examine the challenges of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and how humanity has, since 1957, adapted to this new ecosystem. Today our modern telecommunications network relies on orbiting satellites. Remote sensing satellites that look down provide data to monitor changes in Earth's climate, provide detailed weather forecasting and inform decisions in agriculture and archeological field work. Space stations provide a habitable platform from which astronauts can investigate how the human body responds to microgravity. To get above the distorting effects of our atmosphere, we have placed powerful telescopes to observe like never before. Space provides a workspace that benefits everyone.

In the interactive hands-on segment we will take a look at how you can prepare to safely view the total solar eclipse next month happening on April 8th. Join us so you will be ready for this spectacular event.

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 guest speaker from The Albuquerque Astronomical Society (TAAS) of New Mexico, **Jim Fordice**, for our main presentation to do a talk on **“A Passion for Globular Clusters”**. You don't want to miss this presentation about Jim's interest and passion for clusters of stars in our Milky Way Galaxy called “Globulars”. These ancient tight groups of stars are unique in many ways and Jim will not only explain why but will also illustrate his Zoom talk with images he has captured over the years. Come and learn about this ancient light that glows from within our home galaxy.

Why not check this out? You don't need to be a member to see this presentation. 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)