

PAA Meeting on October 4, 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 **October 4th** as a **“Hybrid Meeting”**, both **online** and 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 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 25** in the series, **“Dark Matter & Dark Energy”**. In this month's Novice Astronomy Class, we venture to the dark side of astronomy - Dark Matter & Dark Energy that is. What are dark matter and dark energy? In short, we don't know. But these are the sorts of enigmas that astronomers love. It is what keeps them up at night and puts a spring in their step. A better answer is that, although we do not know what dark matter and dark energy are, we do know how they behave and this gives us insight into a more complete understanding of their true nature. And, since dark matter and dark energy comprise 95% of the Universe, it is important that we have a better understanding of what they are. The implications they have upon the formation, evolution and eventual fate of our Universe are profound. So, mark your calendar, register for the Novice Astronomy Class if you have not done so already, as we shed some light on what we know thus far. Come over to the dark side!

In the second interactive portion of the class, we will compare the sizes of stars. Our star, the Sun, is massive. Learn how our star compares to the different stellar types found in our Galaxy and beyond.

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 **presentation from our “Library”** of astronomical information. You will have to be there to find out what pieces of knowledge we have to share. Whether joining us on-line or in-person you will not be disappointed and you will learn lots!

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)