

# PAA Meeting on February 7, 2025

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

The **Monthly Meeting** of the **Peterborough Astronomical Association (PAA)** will kick off a New Year and will take place **February 7th**, 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 we begin our **Solar System Series**, beginning with **Our Sun**. The Sun, our nearest star, is responsible for most of the life here on our planet. But what is a star anyway? How do they form? What is the mechanism that produces its power? The answer to these and many more questions will be explored as we take a look at the life cycle of stars from their birth and eventual death. We explore the inner workings of our Sun and see how it measures up to other stars. Space weather generated by the Sun affects our planet and the technology we rely on. Monitoring its influence is essential to safeguard our infrastructure and safely explore space. An overview of the spacecraft providing that data will be discussed. Are you interested in making your own observations of the Sun? We will look at the equipment available to safely do so. 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 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 our President, **Peter Curley**, on the basic use of **processing software**, namely “**Siril**” which is both free and a very effective tool for astrophotographers. This will be a basic tutorial on its use in demonstrating basic pre and post processing tutorial using images from Seestar and running them through the gamut of Siril and time possibly **Topaz Photo AI**, mostly for the upsizing but some noise reduction.

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 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.

Keep looking up,

Rick Stankiewicz  
Publicity Director,  
Peterborough Astronomical Association (PAA)