



Newsletter November 2009

Hello from Atik Cameras!

Well it has been a busy month for us here at ATIK. As some of you may already know, we have taken on a new member of staff, Jennifer Sheerin for marketing, promotions and customer relations. If you haven't already- please drop her an email at Jennifer@atik-cameras.com to say hello! Jennifer has a degree in Fine Art Photography from Ohio State University in the good ole US of A but don't hold that against her. She is a new to astrophotography and very keen to get some images under her belt in the up and coming months. You can find her in the Stargazers Lounge and UK Astro-imaging as JenniferS.

Great news! The latest beta version of **DAWN**, Atik's new image processing software is now available for download at <http://www.atik-cameras.com/html/dawn.html>.

This version incorporates a number of improvements since the previous version, and several new features: there is

1. A new help system
2. A new divide action for performing flat-field correction
3. Keyboard controls for zooming and panning the image display
4. An option to save images in some popular formats (bitmap, tiff and jpeg)
5. A new and more convenient installer.

If you would like to download it and give it a try, we'd be delighted to hear your feedback, along with any suggestions you might have for how it should progress from here.

Please send any comments to jonathan@atik-cameras.com

Steve has been busy guy the past few weeks attending the Advanced Imaging Conference (AIC) held in sunny San Jose at the end of October (yes it's a difficult job!). The conference is a get together of the finest astro-imagers from all over the US, where new ideas are swapped and the latest equipment is on show. This year, nestling amongst the giant RC telescopes, was the Atik trade stand manned by Warren Keller and himself. This is the first time ATIK has attended any US show in our own right and we were a little wary of the reception a new brand would receive. In the event we should not of had any concerns at all, as we met and talked with so many really good, interested, people. On the stand we previewed the Dawn processing software which attracted a lot of attention with its innovative interface, as well as the full range of Atik cameras. Though the large format ATIK 11000 always gets a lot of interest, it was the 314L+ and 16IC cameras that people were buying. This may have been related to some favourable mentions the cameras received in one of the lectures.

Steve would just like to say a big thank you to everyone who wished Atik well in the US and that we hope to make the Florida Winter Star Party in February (really it's a terrible job).

Rui participated in an Astrophotography conference in Lisbon on November 7th. The conference was organized by the Portuguese Amateur Astronomers Association (APAA), with the collaboration of the Portuguese Army, who supplied the excellent facilities.

The conference was attended by approximately 35 people from different parts of the country, and several lectures were given, on many different subjects, from robotic observatories, to meteor imaging, to image processing techniques, as well as others. Our participation included a display of our cameras and wheels, as well as a presentation of Atik Cameras as a brand name, since the early days, at present and into the future.

It was an important participation, since the astrophotographers community is growing steadily in Portugal, and it's very important for us to help support this growth.



Photo reproduced with kind permission of Luis Ramalho

Vince has also been busy this month with imaging. The photo below is of an open cluster M52 also known as the Scorpion or Cassiopeia Salt and Pepper alongside NGC 7635 the Bubble Nebula. The Bubble is a very faint emission nebula located 12,000 light years from the Sun.

This image was taken from his observatory in Norwich during the month of October this year using an Atik 4000 camera and an 8" GSO Newtonian with Baader coma corrector. Baader narrowband filter were also used and the image is made up from 2 hours each of S2, Ha and O3 combined in that order. The mount

was a G11 and guiding was carried out by an Atik 16IC on a 66mm scope using Artemis capture to guide with.



Photo courtesy of Vincent Bygrave

More Great news.....

ATIK Cameras has announced its 3rd Annual Photography Competition! This year with even better prizes!! Please see our website for full details.

ATIK Cameras

3rd Annual Photography Competition

Email your ATIK photo to competition@atik-cameras.com

Top Prize

- * ATIK 314L+ CCD Camera
- * Two free nights of Astronomy B & B at Les Granges Astronomy Farmhouse in Provence. Includes the use of the observatories including free imaging tuition & two evening meals of fine French cuisine.

Runner Up

- * Choice of ATIK 16IC or ATIK Filter Wheel

3 Categories for Entry

- * Atik 16, 16IC, 16IC-S, Artemis 429
- * Atik 16HR, 314L+, 314E, Artemis 285
- * Atik 4000, 11000, Artemis 4021, 11022

-maximum file size 5Mb

-non winning entries from previous years can be re-submitted

-entries will be printed and displayed at Astrofest 2010

-deadline for entries is 15th January 2010

-Atik reserves the right to use photos entered for promotions, crediting the imager

All entries may be viewed at:

www.Atik-Cameras.com



*For full terms & conditions please see our website



*model shown 314L+

Winner Spring 2009

George Ioannidis
M27 - The Dumbbell Nebula
Atik 16-IC-S

And now what you have all been waiting for...a photo of the new 2" Filter Wheel!



Yes, it does exist, but no, it is not available for sale just yet. We will keep you posted on any new developments. Watch this space!

In next month's newsletter...

1. Updates on Dawn
2. Release of the elusive 2" Filter wheel
3. ATIK on Facebook?
4. And Happy Christmas!

Until then! Hasta la Vista!