



## Newsletter March / April 2010

Hello from Atik!

Sorry we're a bit late with this newsletter. It's all a bit frantic here trying to catch up with the enormous demand for the new 383L+ camera. Spring is here and although the nights are getting shorter, the weather is getting warmer and there are some wonderful spring galaxies just waiting to be imaged up there!

On to the news, Atik Cameras are delighted to announce that an ASCOM driver for Atik cameras is now available for download from our website at <http://www.atik-cameras.com/html/downloads.html>. This will allow you to control your Atik camera through any third-party program that supports an ASCOM camera interface, such as Astroart or MaxIm DL.

The [Atik 383L+](#) camera is now shipping so there are more and more images from these cameras appearing on the web now, all of a very high quality. Many customers use our [Atik yahoo group](#). It's a great resource for potential and current Atik users, many images from all our cameras can be found there. Atik also has a Facebook page so please be our friend! We will be posting regular updates and photos of Atik events, and we encourage our friends to post their astro-images on our wall.

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/profile.php?ref=profile&id=100000479715341>

Many people are asking us about the availability of the new filter wheel and the off axis guider. They are currently being "tweaked" to provide even better performance. They have taken a back seat to the production of the 383L+ cameras because of the high demand, but rest assured they will be available soon.

Our [Atik Imaging Competition](#) went very well this year, we had a record number of entries, well over 200 and even more people taking the time to vote. The images were all displayed Astrofest in London in February and the majority of the votes came from people voting there. Online voting

went well too. In the end, first and second place was decided by just one vote!

The winning entry came from Antonios Rossolatos with an excellent narrowband image of the Elephant Trunk Nebula which is around the IC1396 star cluster in Cepheus. The image was taken with an Atik 16HR on a 14" Meade LX200 fitted with the Hyperstar 3 unit from Athens in Greece. It is composed from a blend of Ha, S2, more Ha and O3 as an LRGB image. Congratulations to Antonios!



Antonios has won an [Atik 314L+ cooled CCD camera](#) and two nights board at [the Les Granges astronomy farm house](#) in France.

The overall runner up was Tom O'Donoghue from Dublin in Ireland with this fantastic M31 taken with an [Atik 4000](#) camera on a Takahashi FSQ85 scope and is made up from HaRGB.



Tom has chosen an [Atik 16 IC](#) to use as a guide camera as his prize, Congratulations Tom!

Finally, the winner of category 1, was Steve Carter from Suffolk, UK. The Pelican Nebula was taken with an [Atik 16 IC-S](#) and a Celestron C80ED refractor in Ha.



Steve has chosen an [Atik USB](#) filter wheel as his prize, congratulations Steve.

Jennifer and I (Vince) will be at the [Spring Kelling Heath star party](#) organised by [the Norwich Astronomical Society](#) from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of April, if you do attend please come and say hi. We will have a trade stall there on the Saturday. Steve and Warren are off to [NEAF](#) in New York and again will be displaying products on the Saturday. If you are lucky enough to be attending this event please stop by and say hi.

Finally, an image from me taken from light polluted Norwich, UK. In fact, the pollution in this part of the sky was so bad that my O3 data was unusable so I had to try to synthesise a green channel with the Ha and Hb data that I had! This is not the best way to do things but I think it's ended up as a pleasing image. It was made up from 2 hour of Ha and Hb data shot with an [Atik 4000](#) on a Takahashi 106FSQ mounted on a G11. Not a patch on our winners images but I'm happy and I hope you like it too.



If you would like to be added to our mailing distribution lists please send me an email to [Atikuk@atik-cameras.com](mailto:Atikuk@atik-cameras.com) Thank you for reading.

Vince