

They say that thirteen is an unlucky number, but we are hoping that this thirteenth edition of the Atik newsletter will be the exception that proves the rule because we have some exciting announcements to make!

First, the new Atik website is now up and running. The URL is the same as ever, <http://www.atik-cameras.com>, but the layout and visual design have been given a complete overhaul, making it easier to use and more interesting. A particularly nice feature of the new website is the ease with which you can find pictures taken with different camera models: you can browse the entire gallery of pictures from the Atik Imaging Competition, or search for photos taken with particular camera types for some inspiring examples of what it is possible to achieve with an Atik camera. Do please pay the new website a visit if you haven't already done so: if it comes up looking the same as the old one, then you need to press the refresh button in your browser!



Second, the Atik 2011/2012 Imaging Competition is now open: full details are given later in the newsletter.

Atik Cameras now have a LinkedIn profile: we are to be found at <http://www.linkedin.com/company/2332205>. For those that don't know, LinkedIn is the "professional Facebook" and it is used by professionals worldwide for gathering information about other professionals and companies. Visit us and spread the word.



Last but by no means least, we are announcing the launch of a brand new range of cameras: the Atik 4-Series. Read on for further details!

# The Atik 4-Series

STEVE CHAMBERS

The new Atik 4-Series range is a development of the highly successful 3-Series, but featuring new narrow bodies. These are particularly suitable if the camera is to be placed in front of the telescope as is the case in HyperStar or Fastar systems. The cameras feature setpoint cooling to make taking matching dark frames a snap, and a simple 12V DC power requirement. At present the range comprises two models, the Atik 420 and the Atik 450.

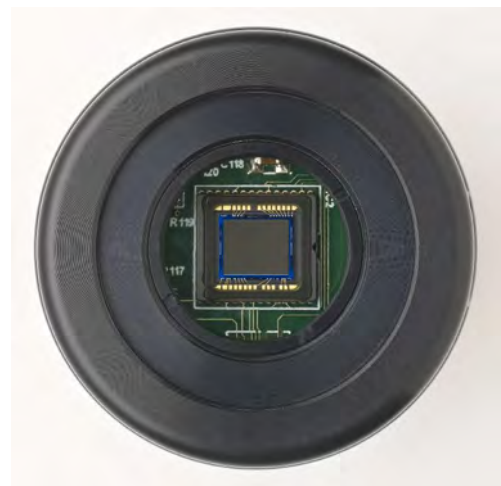


## Atik 420

The Atik 420 uses the Sony ICX274 CCD which gives a pleasing widescreen type image of 1620x1220 pixels. It's the same sensor that is used to good effect in the popular Atik 320E. The camera is particularly well matched to 6" and 8" Hyperstar systems, giving a very fast, high-definition, wide-field view without a hefty price tag.

## Atik 450

The Atik 450 is the first of our astronomical cameras to use Sony's excellent ICX655 5 megapixel sensor. This is one of the latest generation Sony devices and shows the results of Sony's continuing development to drive down thermal and read noise while providing increasing numbers of pixels with high quantum efficiencies. The sensor is an ideal match for shorter focal length refractors and HyperStar systems, giving DSLR-like resolution in a camera optimised for deep-sky astrophotography.



As with all our cameras, the 4-Series cameras are available in monochrome and one-shot-colour versions. We supply our highly regarded image acquisition and processing software packages free with every camera.

# Autumn 2011 Kelling Star Party

STEVE CHAMBERS

Kelling Star Party is the UK's largest star party and probably the biggest in Europe (correct me if I am wrong). It is held twice a year, at the Spring and Autumn equinoxes, and attracts around a thousand astronomers over the main weekend. This was another good year with cloud clearing to allow several hours' observing under dark skies. The weekend coincided with an unseasonal late summer heatwave which gave the whole event a very pleasant relaxed atmosphere.



As ever, Atik were there, represented by myself and Vince, helped by long-term associate and friend Arthur Edwards. Also my children Fay and Eric wore Atik hats to help out during the busy bits and Roger was seen wandering around the stalls and telescopes.

As well as the normal display of Atik cameras inside the stall we brought out some of the more general astronomy hardware that we have from Rui's days as an astronomy retailer. Interest was high and we had a very busy and productive day.

Once again thanks to all who came and chatted or bought from us. Apart from enjoying chatting about astronomy on a warm afternoon, stand out moments for me were observing some brighter Messier objects with the big dobs. M13 was particular good, we also looked at some fainter stuff but as I have been out of visual observing for nearly a year it was the show stoppers that caught my attention.

Roll on the Spring event.



# THE ATIK 2011/2012 IMAGING COMPETITION

STEVE CHAMBERS

As regular Atik followers will know, we run an imaging competition every year. It's a great opportunity to share images on the new website and also to show the imaging community what we can do.

This year we are opening the competition slightly earlier than in previous years in order give Vince some practice at uploading the entries to the new website galleries. Rules are few and far between: pictures need to have been taken with an Atik camera. We do reserve the right to use entries in our promotional material (like the current magazine advert which features thumbnails of last year's entries).

The runners-up prizes are EFW2 filterwheels or Atik Titans, while the main prize has yet to be announced. We hope to have a new camera ready next year and will plan to make this a top prize.

Entries can be in any of the following three categories:

- I Titans, 16IC's
- II Midrange (cameras up to the 314L+)
- III Large-format (Atik 383L+ and above)

The closing date will be in January 2012. However, as you can enter several times, there is nothing to stop you submitting as soon as you get a good image. Although it is a competition it's also a friendly way of sharing images so do please submit even if you suspect you don't have the winning image.

Entries in jpeg format to [Competition@atik-cameras.com](mailto:Competition@atik-cameras.com) please, with details of camera type, telescope, object and your name. For further details please see the competition webpage at <http://www.atik-cameras.com/competition>.



A selection of competition images from our website

## IN CLOSING...

Here's an image taken with one of the new 4-Series cameras. It was taken by Steve on a C11 HyperStar system using an Atik 450 colour camera, with 60x2-minute subs.



I hope you have enjoyed this edition of the newsletter. If you have any comments, or if you would like to be added to the distribution list, please send me an email.

With best regards from the Atik team.

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