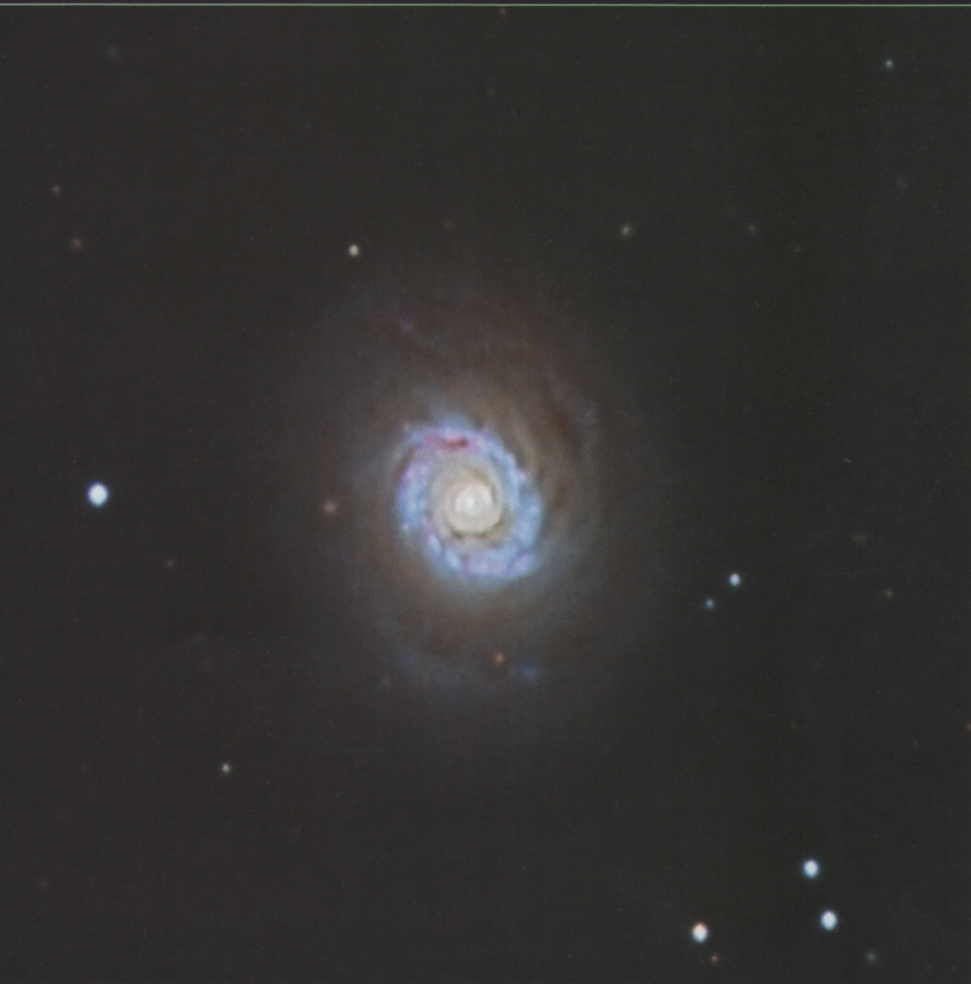


GALLERY

In every issue of *SkyNews*, these two pages are reserved to showcase images taken by our readers. During the 16-year history of the magazine, celestial imaging has advanced so rapidly that today's astrophotographers are surpassing the quality of colour imaging produced less than a generation ago using multi-million-dollar telescopes at the world's major research observatories.

ELEPHANT TRUNK NEBULA ►

Using a 17-inch PlaneWave Corrected Dall-Kirkham Astrograph reflector operating at f/4.5 at his "Cabin in the Sky" observatory in rural British Columbia, Howard Trottier captured this richly detailed portrait of IC1396A in Cepheus, popularly known as the Elephant Trunk Nebula. He used an SBIG STL-4020M camera for the 10-hour exposure in LRGB taken over the course of three nights. The image was processed with PixInsight software.



▲ SATURN AND FRIENDS

Jim Chung captured this nicely detailed image of the giant ringed planet at 3 a.m. on March 15 from central Toronto. He used a 12-inch Sky-Watcher collapsible Dobsonian reflector working at f/20 with a FireWire-enabled PGR Scorpion mono CCD, stacking 300 out of 1,200 images per RGB channel. Saturn shows the northern-hemisphere storm that erupted earlier this year, as well as three moons, clockwise from top: Dione, Rhea and Tethys.

◀ SPIRAL GALAXY M94

Using his 8-inch Ritchey-Chrétien reflector, Ron Brecher of Guelph, Ontario, took this 3-hour LRGB CCD exposure of M94. Interesting structural detail can be seen in this tight spiral galaxy, which lies some 55 million light-years away in the direction of the constellation Canes Venatici.