

IC1396 gas cloud in the Constellation Cepheus. Photo by club president, Knox Worde.

IC1396 is a very large cloud of faintly glowing gas (mostly hydrogen) located about 2,400 light years distant in the Constellation Cepheus. The region is quite large, some 6 times the diameter of the full Moon. The very bright massive star near the center of the region is ionizing the gas cloud and causing the faint glow. The dark region protruding up from the 6 o'clock position is called the Elephant Trunk nebula.

The odd star colors in the image is due to the fact I used a narrowband filter in my camera because I was filming with an almost full moon that night. This photo is a composite of about 3.5 hours of individual 10 minute exposures, October, 2021.