

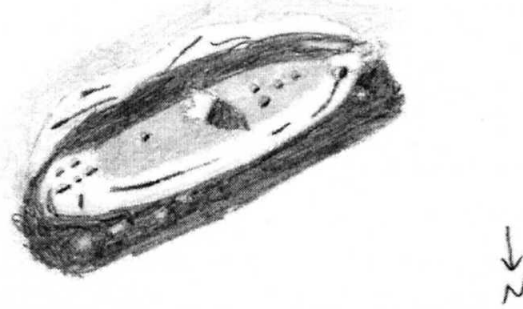
THE LUNAR OBSERVER

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS OF THE MOON
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FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Pythagoras - (63.5°N - 62.8°W)



Sketch by Robert H. Hays, Jr. - Worth, Illinois
150mm Reflector - 170X

Near the northern limb of the Moon lies the huge crater Pythagoras. With a diameter of 130 km. it is about the same size as Alphonsus and a beautiful sight. If it were better placed on the lunar disk it would be stunning. The terraced walls of the crater rise over 5,000 meters and it has a central mountain about 1,500 meters high. Pythagoras can be found on Map #2 of Rukl's Atlas of the Moon.

On January 11, 1998 Robert H. Hays, Jr. of Worth, Illinois sketched Pythagoras and submitted the following report:

"I have seen this large crater many times shortly before full moon, and thought it was striking, but that was it. On January 10/11, 1998, I tried sketching it after timing the occultation of 6th magnitude ZC934. The moon was 36 hours before full. Pythagoras is close to the limb north of Sinus Iridum, but the libration that night was favorable, so this crater was better seen than usual. This is a very conspicuous, deep crater with a large, notched central peak. Its shadow reached to the base of the wall. The floor looked smooth except for a few tiny peaks. I did not see any craters there. The walls showed evidence of terracing with additional peaks or projections. The eastern end (left side on sketch) appeared quite chaotic, like a rubble pile. Everything to the northwest was in shadow except for a few more isolated peaks. Pythagoras was on the terminator at this time."

Observations of the Full Moon

By Myron Wasiuta - Fredricksburg, VA

I am in the process of preparing an article for my club's newsletter about observing bright features on the full moon. I thought perhaps readers of The Lunar Observer might be interested in what I have written so far. All of the following observations were made with a 5" f/14 refractor on the night of August 18, 1997. Observations began at 11:50 EDT and were completed at 1:30 EDT on August 19, 1997. Seeing was about 7 on a scale of 1-10 (10 being best). All directions are with respect to lunar terrain.

PROCLUS - A prominent crater on the edge of Mare Crisium, center of a tri-lobed ray system. The inner ramparts of the crater walls are among the brightest areas on the moon, easily as bright as Aristarchus! These walls are not circular, but noticeably angled in several areas, giving the crater a polygonal shape.

GOCLINIUS - This eye-catching crater appears as a bright oval ring on the western edge of Mare Fecunditatis. The inside of the ring is peppered with bright features., but no traces of the clefts are seen under such high illumination. This object is reminiscent of the Ring Nebula and is the largest and most prominent "ghost ring" on the moon.

BELLOT - A small crater in Mare Fecunditatis just southeast of Goclenius. It has a small, extremely bright condensation on the inside of the southern rim (a tiny craterlet?).

MADLER - This crater in Sinus Asperitatus is bisected by an unusual, bright, curved triangular feature. The apex of this feature points north, and is northeast of the crater itself. The base extends to the southwest almost to Theophilus and to the southeast into Mare Nectaris. The western half of Madler is darker than the eastern half!

SERENITATIS STREAK - Part of the Tycho ray system? It appears as a bright, wispy, linear feature traversing the center of Mare Serenitatis and the crater Bessel. Appears a little brighter near Bessel.

HYGINUS RILLE - Surprisingly easy to see at full moon! It appears as an angled, bright line centered on the crater Hyginus. At moments of really good seeing, the rille appeared slightly mottled.

MOSTING A - A small, intensely bright crater near the center of the lunar disk. Prominent even at low powers, it lies on the ruined rim of Flammarion.

RAMSDEN - A lunar pearl ring! This crater lies isolated in the dark material of western Palus Epidemiarum and has a brilliant condensation on the western rim which along with the bright crater rim gives the impression of a pearl ring. A very nice sight!

BIRT - A small crater with a very bright rim and two bright condensations within the crater at the north and south rims. This gives the impression of a soccer ball or a planet with two polar caps! No trace of the Straight Wall visible under such a high sun.

From the Editor:

Just another reminder that hard copies of The Lunar Observer may be obtained by sending a set of self-addressed-stamped-envelopes to the editor at the address shown on Page 1 or by subscribing at the rate of \$5.00 for twelve issues.

Clear & Steady Skies WMD

Lunar Calendar for May 1998 (UT)

3.....	10:03.....	First Quarter
8.....	09:00.....	Moon at Apogee (405,849 km)
11.....	14:30.....	Full Moon
17.....	07:00.....	Moon 2.5 Degrees North of Neptune
18.....	02:00.....	Moon 2.7 Degrees North of Uranus
19.....	04:35.....	Last Quarter
23.....	09:00.....	Moon 1.7 Degrees South of Saturn
24.....	00:00.....	Moon at Perigee (361,650 km)
25.....	19:33.....	New Moon (Start of Lunation 933)

Topographical Studies:

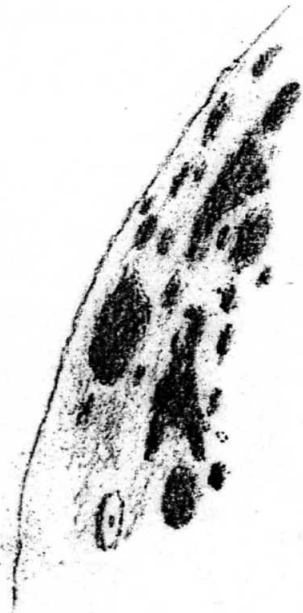


Mare Nectaris

Photograph by Francis G. Graham

East Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

7 inch Refractor - July 12, 1997



Mare Australe

Sketch by David J. Lehman

Fresno, California

10 inch Reflector - 154X

September 8, 1995