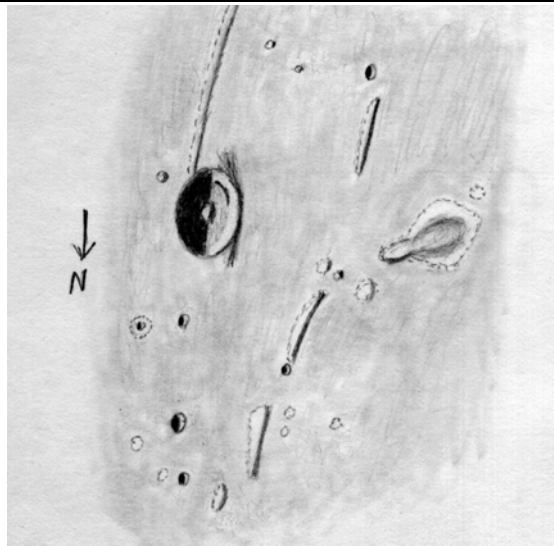


THE LUNAR OBSERVER

A NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS OF THE MOON MAY 2000

EDITED BY: Bill Dembowski - ALPO Coordinator, Lunar Topographical Studies - President, American Lunar Society
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FEATURE OF THE MONTH



REINER - (7.0°N - 54.9°W)

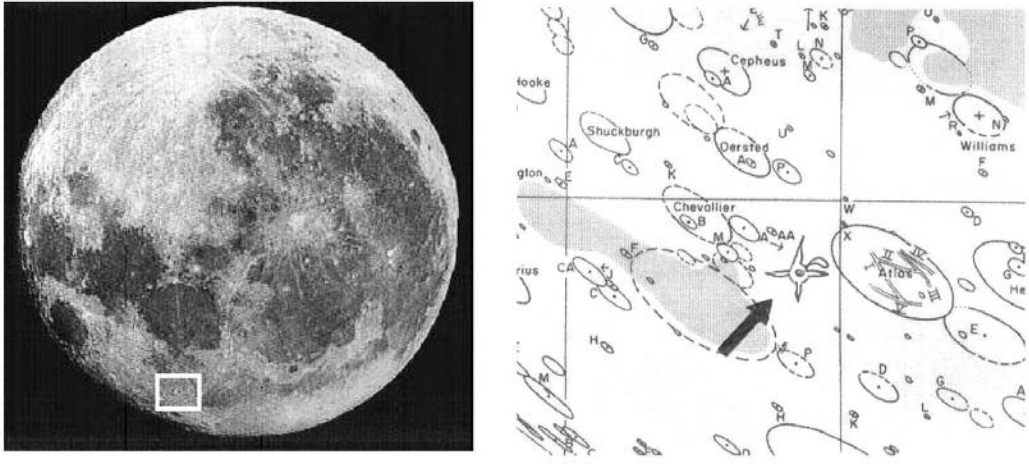
Sketch and Text by Robert W. Hays, Jr. - Worth, Illinois

6 inch (150mm) Newtonian - 170X - Seeing 7/10

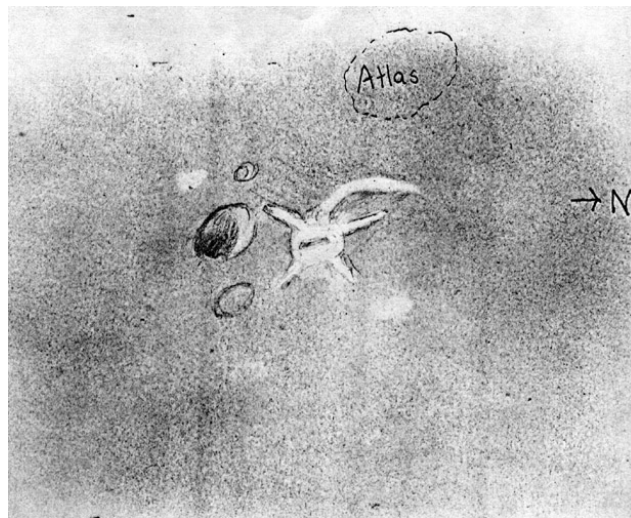
I sketched this crater and environs on the evening of September 22/23, 1999 after timing the occultation of a faint star. Reiner is a modest crater with a conspicuous central peak and evidence of terracing on its inside wall. A sprinkling of small craters was seen north of Reiner, the largest being Reiner H. One of them had a halo around it. A long ridge extended from Reiner's south rim, and three ridges to the west could be a long ridge that had been broken. The most interesting feature may be Reiner gamma farther to the west from Reiner. This strange marking at first appeared to be a bright feature, but it really is a mix of bright and dark markings. The best way to describe it would be as a figure-8 shaped dusky area with a bright diamond-shaped area surrounding the larger west lobe. The interior of the '8' is not as dark as the edges, but appeared to be the same duskiness as the nearby mare. Its name suggests that Reiner gamma is an elevation, but I saw no shadow except possibly for the north edge of the east lobe. To me, this simply looks to be an albedo feature. I have seen it look much the same when it is far from the terminator. Can this feature be better explained? I had noticed it before, but had never given it much thought until now.

Editor: The crater Reiner can be found on Map #29 of Rukl's Atlas of the Moon, Reiner gamma appears on Map #28. Your observations and comments on the nature of Reiner gamma are most welcomed.

EXPLORING THE MOON



Map used with permission of Lunar & Planetary Laboratory - University of Arizona



Sketch and Text by Daniel del Valle - Aguadilla, Puerto Rico
April 12, 2000 - 8 inch Newtonian - 266X - Seeing 8/10

This feature was very bright and had a star-like structure. The crater itself was not as visible as this sketch shows; almost a 10 in tonal estimate.

It apparently has no name on any map although it is clearly visible in the Hatfield Photographic Atlas. Rukl's Map #15 shows a feature which is closest to what I observed. Again, it has no name, yet its rays are bright and striking to the eye. However, it is not on the Lunar Quadrant Map. I drew it more or less where I saw it. (Editor: See large arrow on above map)

The feature is most clearly visible in Hatfield's Photographic Atlas, Plate 4a, which is how I saw it in the eyepiece. I would appreciate any feedback on this one. It begs for more study.

Editor: Here's an intriguing feature to add to your observing list the next time you go exploring the Moon. We welcome and encourage any sketches, photographs, or electronic images of this crater. Although we are primarily interested in how it appears in earth-based telescopes, armchair astronomers with internet access can check out this bright crater on Clementine Image B145N045.IMG.

RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH

MICHAEL AMATO - WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, USA

Sketches of Proclus Rays (2), Messier Rays (2), Menelaus Rays (2), Tycho, Aristarchus

ZIVKO SIKIC - CROATIA

Photograph of Full Moon

DOUG SLAWSON - SWISHER, IOWA, USA

Video Still of Proclus

DANIEL DEL VALLE - AGUADILLA, PUERTO RICO

Sketches of Phocylides & Nasmyth, C. Hershel, Helicon & le Verrier, Archimedes, Burg, Messier (3), Macrobius & Tisserand, Un-named crater near Atlas

Ray Maps of Petavius B, Messier

ROBERT WLODARCZYK - CZESTOCHOWA, POLAND

Sketches of Bullialdus & Kies, Cauchy & Vicinity, Linne & Vicinity, Ariadaeus Rille

LUNAR CALENDAR - MAY 2000 (UT)

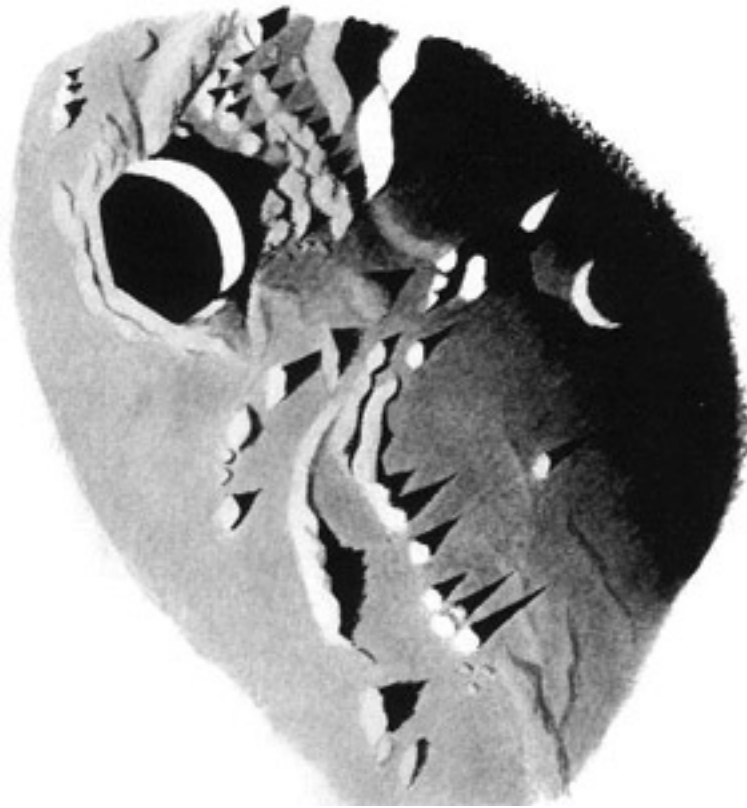
- 4 . . 04:13 . . . New Moon (Start of Lunation 957)
- 5 . . 06:00 . . . Moon 4.6 Degrees SSE of Mars
- 6 . . 09:00 . . . Moon at Perigee (225,663 miles - 363,159 km)
- 10 . . 20:01 . . . First Quarter
- 18 . . 07:34 . . . Full Moon
- 22 . . 04:00 . . . Moon at Apogee (251,921 miles - 405,415 km)
- 24 . . 02:00 . . . Moon 1.2 Degrees S of Neptune
- 25 . . 06:00 . . . Moon 1.5 Degrees S of Uranus
- 26 . . 11:56 . . . Last Quarter

TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



Full Moon

Photograph by Zivko Sikic - Croatia
Afocal method through 10x50 binoculars



Kepler

Sketch by Grahame Wheatley - Long Eaton, Nottingham, England
February 15, 2000 - 240mm Newtonian



Proclus & Mare Crisium

Video Still by Doug Slauson - Swisher, Iowa, USA
March 17, 2000 - 250mm SCT w/83mm off-axis mask