

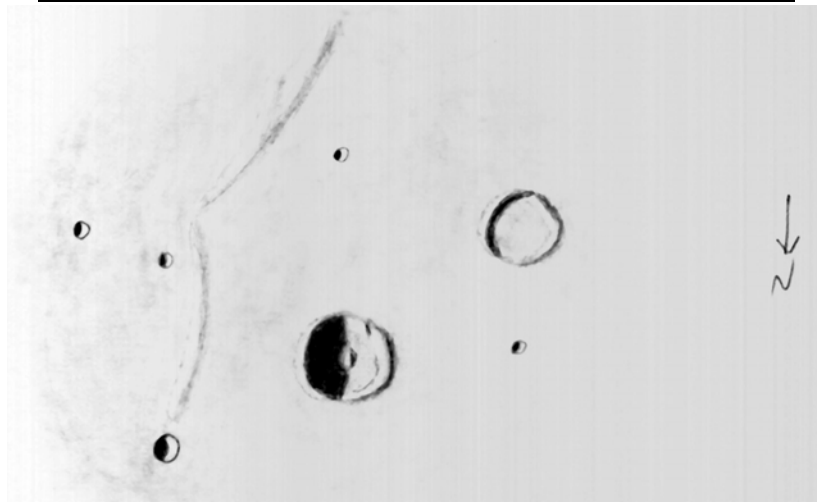
THE LUNAR OBSERVER

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS OF THE MOON . . . SEPTEMBER 2000

EDITED BY: Bill Dembowski - ALPO Coordinator, Lunar Topographical Studies - President, American Lunar Society

219 Old Bedford Pike - Windber, PA 15963 - DEMBOW@TWD.NET

FEATURE OF THE MONTH



ROSS (11.7°N - 21.7°E) and MACLEAR (10.5°N - 20.1°E)

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

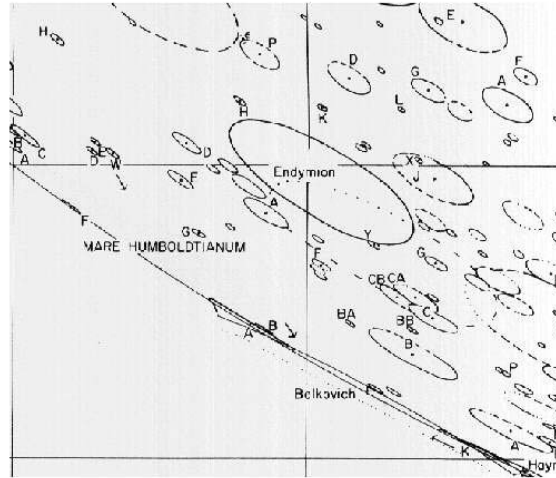
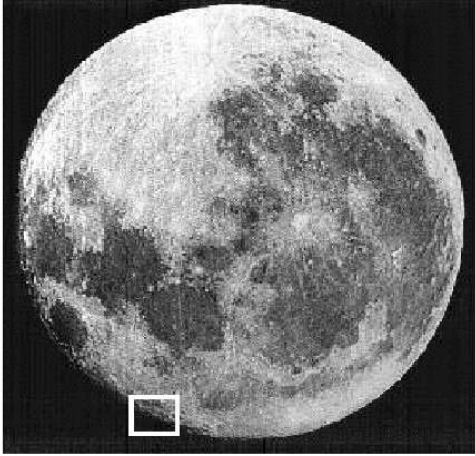
6 inch (15 cm) Newtonian - 170X - Seeing 6/10

I sketched this area on the evening of March 11/12, 2000 while timing six occultations of stars in the Hyades cluster. The brightest was 63 Tauri. This was the same area that the moon was in last December 20/21. These two craters are a study in contrast. Ross is a deep crater with a conspicuous central peak and terracing on its inside walls. Maclear is nearly the same size, but it is much shallower. Maclear was probably flooded by Mare Tranquillitatis. Both craters are slightly out of round, Maclear in particular having a conspicuous corner on its west side.

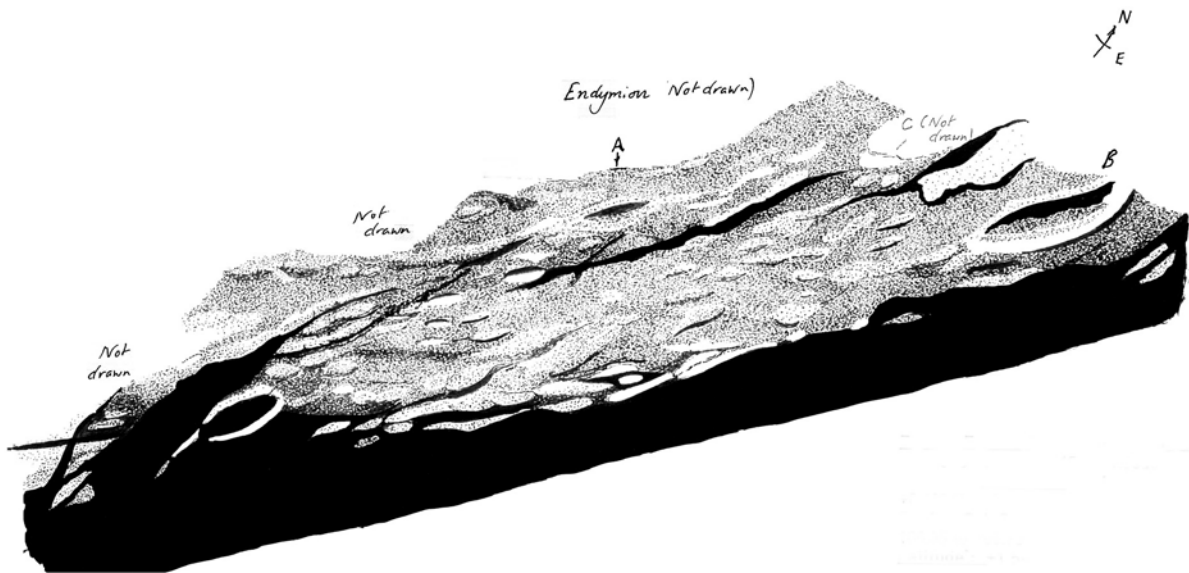
This part of the northwest Mare Tranquillitatis is sprinkled with several small craters, the largest being Ross D to the northeast of Ross. A wrinkle ridge extends south from Ross D, bends near Ross E, and continues south of Ross H. This ridge appears at its lowest at its bend; indeed it is almost broken there. The Lunar Quadrant Map shows a rille north of Maclear, but I did not notice it. The seeing may have left a little to be desired. I have noticed that rilles are the lunar features most affected by seeing.

Editor: Ross and Maclear can be found on Map #35 of Rukl's Atlas of the Moon. Robert Hays sketched this area five days after New Moon.

EXPLORING THE MOON



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



ENDYMION TO MARE HUMBOLDTIANUM

Sketch and Text by Colin Ebdon - Colchester, Essex, England

October 25, 1999 - 10 inch Newtonian - 183X and Video

What seems to be an illuminated elliptical crater rim at the far left of the drawing is either the crater M shown in Rukl, or an illusion caused by sunlight on bright ridges. Note that it is at quite a steep angle to the rest of the craters in the drawing. The crater Mercurius is just out of the picture to the left. The strongest feature in this lunation is the deep, curving shadow curving towards Endymion from this position, and narrowing along its length in that direction. This is a striking feature even in binoculars. It seems to end in a web of thin, curving shadows which, under good seeing, resolves into the shadows of a series of hills. The second strongest shadow, running South-North, and East of Endymion, commencing at E and running through C, is probably caused by a ridge, or lower lying ground. However, the cause is not obvious under higher lighting conditions. This shadow reveals some interesting detail under close examination and moments of good seeing in that it appears to have small 'swirls' of 'penumbral' shadow along its length at this colongitude. The two main shadows described merge at increasing colongitudes causing this region between here and Mare Humboldtianum to take on the appearance of a disconnected 'island.'

RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH

MICHAEL AMATO - WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, USA
Maps of ray systems of Proclus (5), Menelaus (5), Messier (5)

DANIEL DEL VALLE - AGUADILLA, PUERTO RICO
Sketches of Rheita Valley, Endymion, Cepheus, Aristillus, Bullialdus & Konig
Ray map of area near Seleucus Krafft & Cardanus

COLIN EBDON - COLCHESTER, ESSEX, ENGLAND
Sketches of Theophilus Cyrillus & Catharina, Unnamed feature near Atlas

RICK GOSSETT - DETROIT MICHIGAN, USA
CCD images of Moon at 6-days (4), 11-days (2), 10 days, 13 days (3)

HARRY PULLEY - GUELPH, ONTARIO, CANADA
CCD image of Anaxagoras

ROBERT WLODARCZYK - CZESTOCHOWA, POLAND
Sketches of Full Moon, Archimedes (2), Theophilus Cyrillus & Catharina

LUNAR CALENDAR - SEPTEMBER 2000 (UT)

5 . . . 16:27 . . . First Quarter
8 . . . 13:00 . . . Moon at Apogee (251,507 miles - 404,750 km)
13 . . . 19:38 . . . Full Moon
21 . . . 01:29 . . . Last Quarter
24 . . . 08:00 . . . Moon at Perigee (228,019 miles - 366,951 km)
27 . . . 19:53 . . . New Moon (Start of Lunation 962)

From the Editor:

When submitting observations to The Lunar Observer please include the following information: Name and location of observer, name of the feature, date and time (Universal), size and type of telescope used, magnification (for sketches), focal length or focal ratio (for photographs and electronic images).

Just a reminder that, in addition to being available at the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers (ALPO) Website at www.lpl.arizona.edu/~rhill/alpo/lunar.html, hard copies of The Lunar Observer can be obtained by sending the Editor a set of self-addressed-stamped-envelopes or by subscribing at the rate of \$5.00 for 12 issues.

Clear and steady skies WMD

TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



MOON AT 6-DAYS

CCD image by Rick Gossett - Detroit, Michigan, USA
June 8, 2000 - 8 inch SCT - Afocal at 50X with Digital Camera



BIRT

Sketch by Grahame Wheatley - Long Eaton, Nottingham, England
February 13, 2000 - 240mm Newtonian