

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS OF THE MOON ..... JULY 2001 EDITED BY: Bill Dembowski - ALPO Coordinator, Lunar Topographical Studies - President, American Lunar Society Elton Moonshine Observatory - 219 Old Bedford Pike - Windber, PA 15963 - <u>DEMBOW@TWD.NET</u>

# FEATURE OF THE MONTH



LASSELL (15.5°S - 7.9°W) Sketch and Text by Robert H. Hays, Jr. - Worth, Illinois, USA March 4, 2001 - 6 inch Newtonian - 170X - Seeing 7/10

I sketched this crater and vicinity on the evening of March 3/4, 2001 while timing the disappearance of three faint stars. This crater is in the northeast corner of Mare Nubium and appears to have been flooded by the mare. This crater is somewhat rectangular shaped and has two small gaps in its north wall. There are substantial elevations on the south and east walls judging by their shadows. The interior of Lassell looked very smooth.

A group of modest craters and peaks lies northwest of Lassell. Three deep craters making a gentle curve are Lassell K, G, and C in increasing distance from Lassell. A much shallower crater was noted west of Lassell K and G, and the east rim of Lassell K appeared to be double. The smaller crater, Lassell M, lies among the peaks. The conspicuous crater east of Lassell is Alpetragius B, according to the Lunar Quadrant Map. South of Lassell is Lassell B which has a small, bright halo. Two small crater pits without halos were seen west of Lassell B. Two circular bright areas with no shadows were noted north and northeast of Lassell and a small wrinkle was seen to the southwest.

## LUNAR NOTEBOOK



#### BRENNER TO PICCOLOMINI Sketch and Text by Colin Ebdon - Colchester, Essex, England October 16, 2000 - 10 inch Newtonian - 183X

The purpose of this observation was to record one of three roughly linear features running south to north from Brenner and Fabricus towards, and perhaps beyond, Piccolomini. Whether the effect is due in whole or in part to the lunar topography, or to the spurious conjoining of various features by the human eye, is open to some debate and further observations are needed.

The features run roughly parallel to the Rheita Valley further to the south and east. In the drawing, the linear feature running from Brenner northwards looks like a deep scar at low powers, but at higher magnifications seems to be an escarpment. The overall impression is that it continues further north than Piccolomini, gradually tapering away to nothing.

The westernmost edge of the present drawing represents a similar feature, more even along its length, extending northwards from the crater A, west of Brenner. This can be followed northwards (and turning slightly eastwards) beyond Piccolomini, and indeed passes through the eastern rim of that crater. The overall appearance is of a sort of junior version of the Altai scarp.

Whether this is indeed a single feature could not be determined on the strength of one observation. Plate 68 of Rukl's atlas refers, and all three features can readily be made out at Plate 16a in Hatfield's lunar atlas. Needless to say, the lunar surface is very rough in this region, and difficult to depict in fine detail.

#### RECEIVED DURING THE MONTH

MICHAEL AMATO - WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, USA Ray maps of Proclus (6), Messier (6), Menelaus (6)

DANIEL DEL VALLE - AGUADILLA, PUERTO RICO Sketches of Dome-like features near Davy, Harpalus, la Perous & Ansgarius

JACK KRAMER - LIBERTYVILLE, ILLINOIS, USA CCD images of Mare Nectaris (2)

JOSEPH H. C. LIU - SALINAS, CALIFORNIA, USA CCD images of Maginus, Albategnius & Hipparchus, Clavius, Longomontanus & Wilhelm

ROBERT WLODARCZYK - CZESTOCHOWA, POLAND Sketches of Kepler ray system, Alpine Valley

### LUNAR CALENDAR - JULY 2001 (UT)

- 5 . . . . 15:04 . . . . Full Moon
- 9.... 17:00.... Moon at Apogee (252,007 miles 405,555 km)
- 13 . . . . 18:47 . . . . Last Quarter
- 20 . . . . 19:45 . . . . New Moon (Start of Lunation 972)
- 21 .... 21:00 .... Moon at Perigee (223,089 miles 359,017 km)
- 27 . . . . 10:09 . . . . First Quarter

#### MOON ABOUT TO OCCULT M GEMINORUM



Photograph by Robert H. Hays, Jr. - Worth, Illinois, USA April 28, 2001 - Celestron 5 - 12 seconds - Tri-X

### TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



<u>ALBATEGNIUS & HIPPARCHUS</u> CCD image by Joseph H. C. Liu - Salinas, California, USA May 31, 2001 - 20.6cm f/7.7 Refractor - Afocal w/9mm Eyepiece



<u>ALPINE VALLEY</u> Sketch by Robert Wlodarczyk - Czestochowa, Poland May 30, 2001 - 180mm Newtonian - 240X