THE LUNAR OBSERVER

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS OF THE MOON . . . JANUARY 2003
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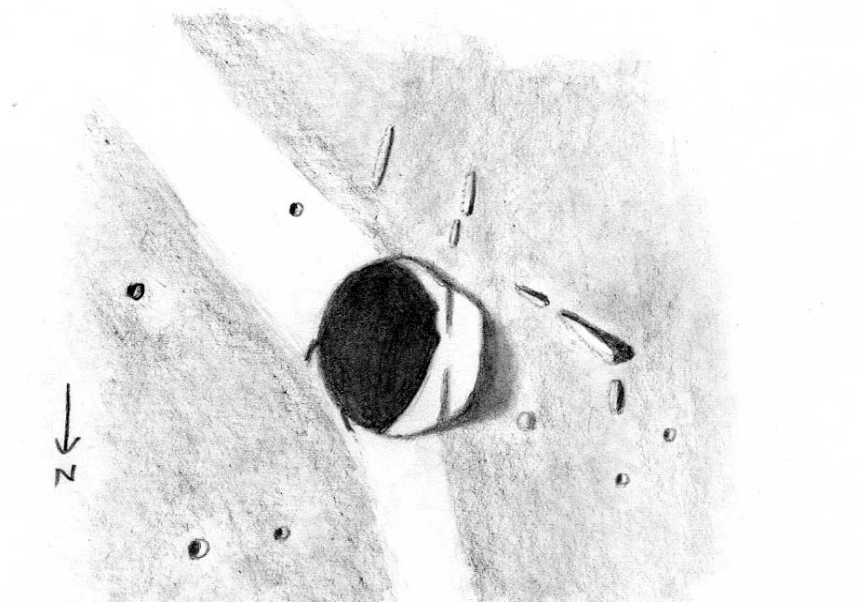
FEATURE OF THE MONTH



KONIG – (24.1ºS – 24.6ºW)
Sketch and Text by Robert H. Hays, Jr. – Worth, Illinois, USA
May 22, 2002 – 15cm Newtonian – 170X – Seeing 7-8/10

I observed this crater on the evening of May 21/22, 2002 while timing two occultations, one of them a near-graze of 7th-magnitude ZC 1755. This crater is located in southwest Mare Nubium. Konig is relatively smooth and round on its east side (except for a couple of bits of shadow), but the west side is irregular with a nearly straight rim. The western rim of Konig is somewhat separated from the rest of the crater by a couple of strips of shadow, and this rim also appeared quite bright. The shadow cast by the west rim was also not as dark or crisp as the interior shadow within Konig. A conspicuous ray, probably from Tycho, angles past Konig, changing from a northwest to a more northerly direction. This ray was also less bright north of Konig. The small crater Konig A was noted within the ray southeast of Konig, and Bullialdus G is the larger of the pits northeast of Konig. Another small pit was seen east of Konig, and two more craterlets were noted west of Konig near a small group of hills. This group of hills formed a rough semi-circle, and the Lunar Quadrant Map does indicate a broken ring there. A little group of north-south ridges was seen south of Konig, the largest apparently shown as Konig Beta on the map.

Received During the Month

MICHAEL AMATO - WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, USA
Ray Maps of :Proclus (4), Messier (4), Menelaus (3)

ED CRANDALL - WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA, USA
CCD Image of Clavius & Environs, Eratosthenes & Mons Wollf

DANIEL DEL VALLE - AGUADILLA, PUERTO RICO
Sketch of Rupes Recta, Maskelyne, Bisected dome near Menelaus, Triesnecker, Rupes Recta and dome, Gruithuisen's Lunar City, Delisle Region

COLIN EBDON - COLCHESTER, ESSEX, ENGLAND
Sketches of Archimedes & Montes Spitzbergen, Maurolycus
Video Still of Rupes Recta

ROBERT H. HAYS, JR. - WORTH, ILLINOIS, USA
Sketches of Horrocks & Pickering, Reiner & Reiner Gamma, Lade

WALT KUPSON – MIDDLEBURY, CONNECTICUT, USA
CCD Images of Messier Twins (2). Rupes Recta

K. C. PAU – HONG KONG, CHINA
CCD Image of Clavius, Kies and Kies pi

ROBERT WLODARCZYK - CZESTOCHOWA, POLAND
Sketch of Stofler & Licetus & Cuvier

LUNAR CALENDAR – JANUARY 2003 (UT)

02 . . . 20:24 . . . New Moon (Start of Lunation 990)

06 . . . 04:00 . . . Moon 4.4 Degrees SSE of Uranus

10 . . . 13:16 . . . First Quarter

11 . . . 01:00 . . . Moon at Apogee (251,247 miles – 404,332 km)

18 . . . 10:49 . . . Full Moon

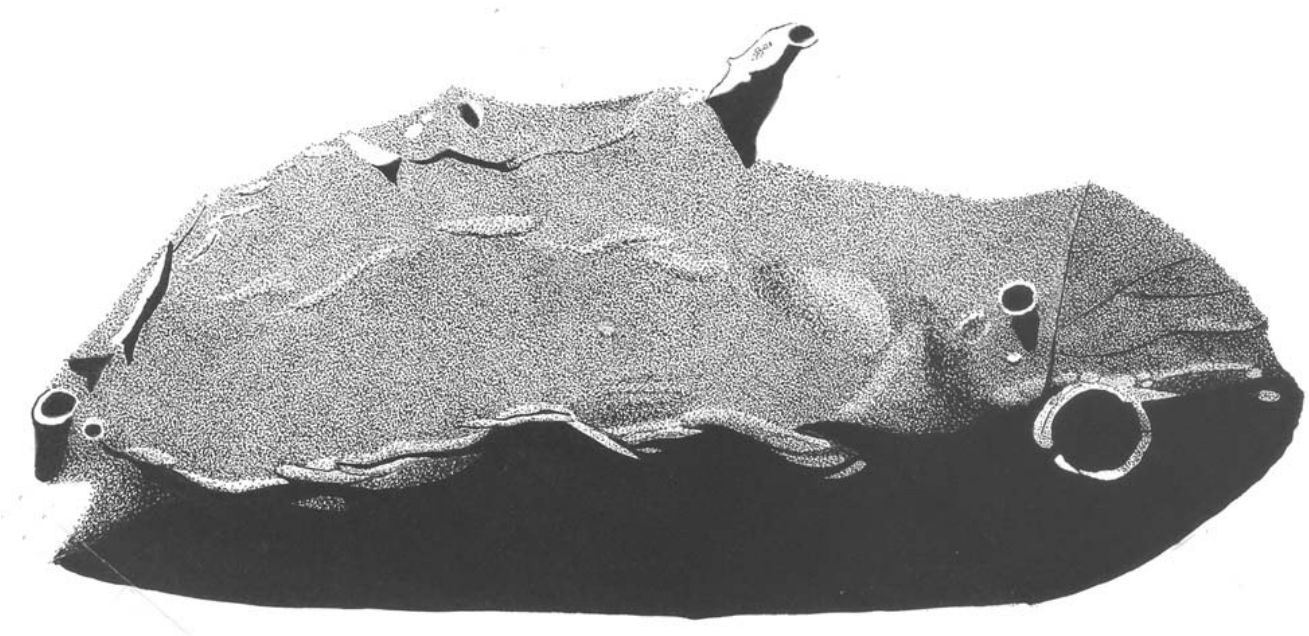
23 . . . 22:00 . . . Moon ate Perigee (229,844 miles – 369,888 km)

25 . . . 08:34 . . . Last Quarter

30 . . . 10:00 . . . Moon 4.8 Degrees S of Mercury

Just as deep sky observers look for interesting objects between the stars,
lunar observers can find many treasurers

BETWEEN THE CRATERS



DORSA SMIRNOV (North to the Left)
Sketch by Colin Ebdon – Colchester, Essex, England
May 2, 1999 – 10 inch Newtonian – 183X – Seeing II Antoniadi

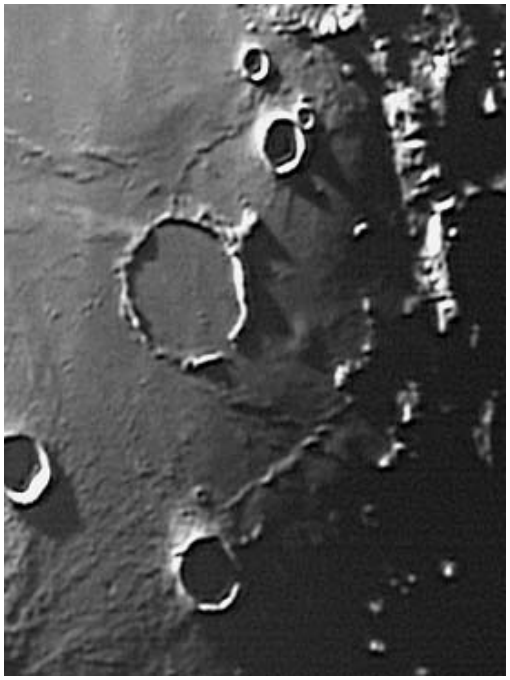
Text by Bill Dembowski

Near the Eastern shore of Mare Serenitatis lies the largest of the wrinkle ridges, Dorsa Smirnov, commonly called the Serpentine Ridge. It is, as far as I know, the only wrinkle ridge having a common name. It snakes its way (get it?) from the general vicinity of the crater Posidonius southward for a distance of about 80 miles (130 km). Most wrinkle ridges rise no more than 350 ft. above their surroundings. The Serpentine Ridge, however, exceeds 700 ft. in some places (according to Edmund Neison 1851-1940). Although even this elevation qualifies Dorsa Smirnov as a low profile feature, it would still make an impressive sight from the surface of the Moon. Remember, 700 ft. is the equivalent of a 70 story building and, in this case, one that runs for 80 miles.

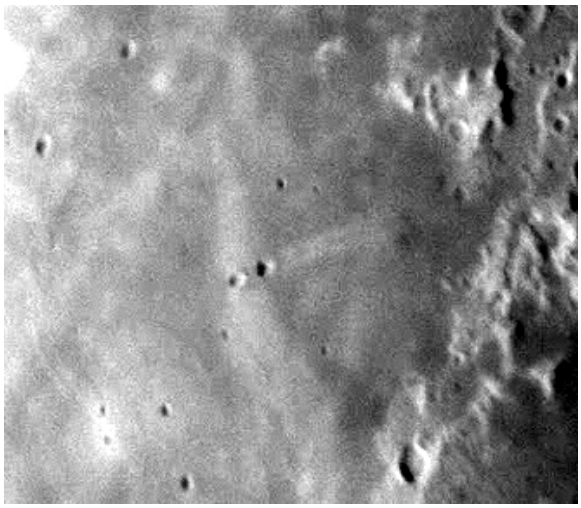
First described by Cassini (1625-1712), it has always puzzled me that Patrick Moore virtually ignores the feature. Even in his most recent book (Patrick Moore on the Moon), the only reference to this feature is in a brief paragraph about wrinkle ridges in which he states: "….. there is one excellent example crossing the Mare Serenitatis …."

Try to catch Dorsa Smirnov when it is on the terminator (as Colin Ebdon did in the sketch above), and follow its many twists and turns; not only in the ridge as a whole, but also in the many intricacies within the feature itself.

TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



KIES & KIES PI
CCD Image by K. C. Pau – Hong Kong, China
November 14, 2002 – 210mm Newt-Cass – Phillips Toucam Pro



MARE FECUNDITATIS (W/MESSIER TWINS)
CCD Image by Walt Kupson – Middlebury, Connecticut, USA
December 9, 2002 - 4.5 inch Newtonian – Canon S30 3.2-Megapixel