



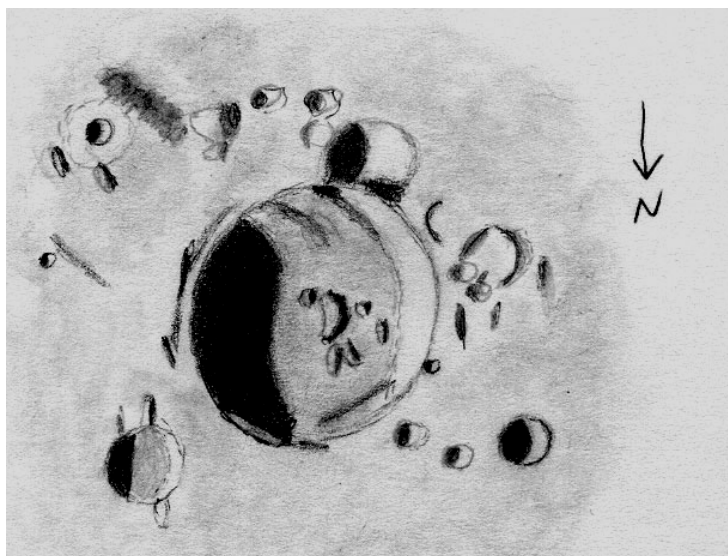
THE LUNAR OBSERVER

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS OF THE MOON – DECEMBER 2003

EDITED BY: William M. Dembowski, FRAS - Elton Moonshine Observatory

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FEATURE OF THE MONTH



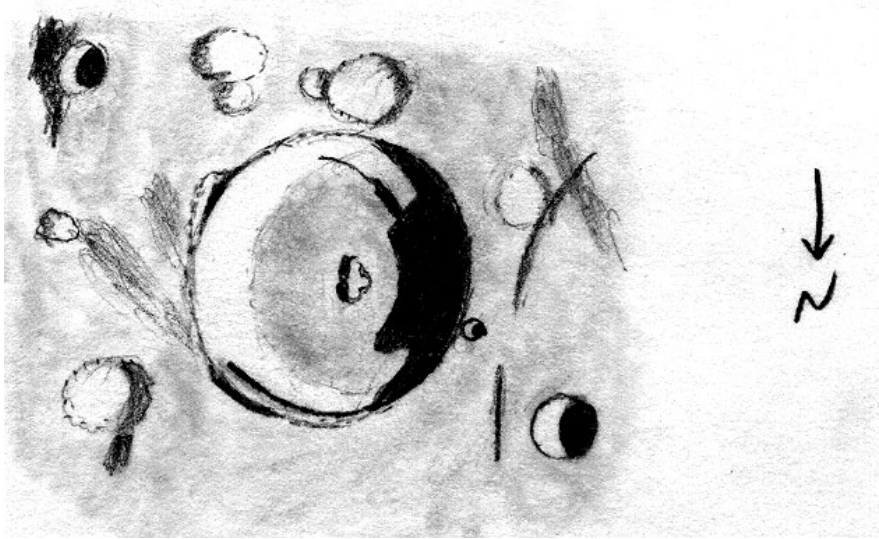
HERSCHEL ($5.7^{\circ}\text{S} - 2.1^{\circ}\text{W}$)

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

May 10, 2003 – 15cm Newtonian – 170x – Seeing 7-8/10

I sketched this crater and vicinity on the evening of May 9/10, 2003 after timing the occultation of a faint star. This is a crisp, round crater just north of Ptolemaeus, and is surrounded by a variety of detail. Herschel has one large central peak and several smaller ones. The interior shows terracing and a peculiar internal shadow which I sketched as I saw it. There was a narrow sunlit strip near the northern end of this shadow which I may have shown too wide on the sketch. Herschel N is the fairly large crater northeast of Herschel, while Herschel C is the smaller, but crisper crater to the northwest. Two shallow saucers were noted between Herschel and Herschel C. Herschel C is the large but somewhat vague crater abutting the south rim of Herschel. I saw what appeared to be three shallow craters east of Herschel G. A small, crisp crater with a bright halo was located southeast of Herschel; this is Ptolemaeus R, according to the Lunar Quadrant Map. A small pit not on the map is north of Ptolemaeus R; this feature had no halo. Herschel N is the craterlet on the west rim of Herschel, and nearby is what appears to be a small ghost ring. The map shows an unlabelled ruined crater in that place. There were also various shadows and elevations that I drew as well as I could.

HERSCHEL REVISITED



HERSCHEL

Sketch by Robert H. Hays, Jr. – Worth, Illinois, USA
August 3, 1999 – 15cm Newtonian – 170X – Seeing 7/10

EDITOR:

Robert had previously submitted an observation of Herschel made on August 3, 1999 (see above and TLO dated January 2000). One of the rewards of keeping a notebook of your observations is the ability to compare current observations with previous ones. Keep in mind that the sketch on Page One was made 6 days before Full Moon while this earlier sketch was made 6 days after Full Moon.

Below is the note from Robert alerting me to the earlier sketch:

ROBERT H. HAYS, JR.

I had previously sketched Herschel during the waning phases in early August 1999, so the recent sketch can be compared to it. The main features, of course, can be recognized on both views but the smaller ones look different, probably due to a different sun angle and the fact that Herschel was closer to the terminator this time.

EDITOR:

There are several features honoring the Herschel family on the Moon. The above crater “Herschel” is named for William Herschel and is shown on Map 44 of Rukl’s Atlas of the Moon.

The crater “C.Herschel” was named for William’s sister, Caroline, who was his assistant and a fine observer in her own right. “C.Herschel” sits amid the Dorsum Heim on the Mare Imbrium and can be found on Map 10.

William’s son, John, was assigned a large, but heavily eroded crater “J.Herschel” which lies near the northern limb and is on Map 2.

SPECIAL READERS' POLL

I recently received several emails from readers expressing a desire to see an expansion of TLO to include more than just the Earth's Moon. This didn't come as a surprise, since lunar observers also tend to view the planets. I did wonder, however, just how many readers felt the same way. And so

THE BIG QUESTION: Should The Lunar Observer be expanded to include other members of the Solar System? At a loss for words? It seems that most opinions should fall into one of these categories:

- (1) **I WOULD** like to have other Solar System objects included.
- (2) **I DON'T CARE** one way or the other.
- (3) **I WOULD NOT** like to have other Solar System objects included.

Please send your opinions and comments to me at Dembowski@adelphia.net

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED

ANTHONY AYIOMAMITIS – GREECE
CCD Image of Kepler Rays

ED CRANDALL - WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA, USA
CCD Image of Copernicus, Plato & Mare Imbrium, Plato & Mare Frigoris, Mare Nubium

DANIEL DEL VALLE - AGUADILLA, PUERTO RICO
CCD Images of Goldschmidt, Montes Harbinger, Kepler, J. Herschel, Aristarchus Plateau
Map of lunar eclipse and 3 crater timings

WILFRIED DEVRIESE – BRUGGE, BELGIUM
CCD Images of Kepler (2)

COLIN EBDON - COLCHESTER, ESSEX, ENGLAND
Sketches of Area East of Atlas, Kies at Sunset, Babbage, Zeno Complex

HOWARD ESKILDSEN – OCALA, FLORIDA, USA
CCD Images of lunar eclipse (6)

K. C. PAU – HONG KONG, CHINA
Video Stills of Mare Crisium, Alphonsus, Rupes Recta, Proclus, Atlas Companion, Macrobius, Taruntius

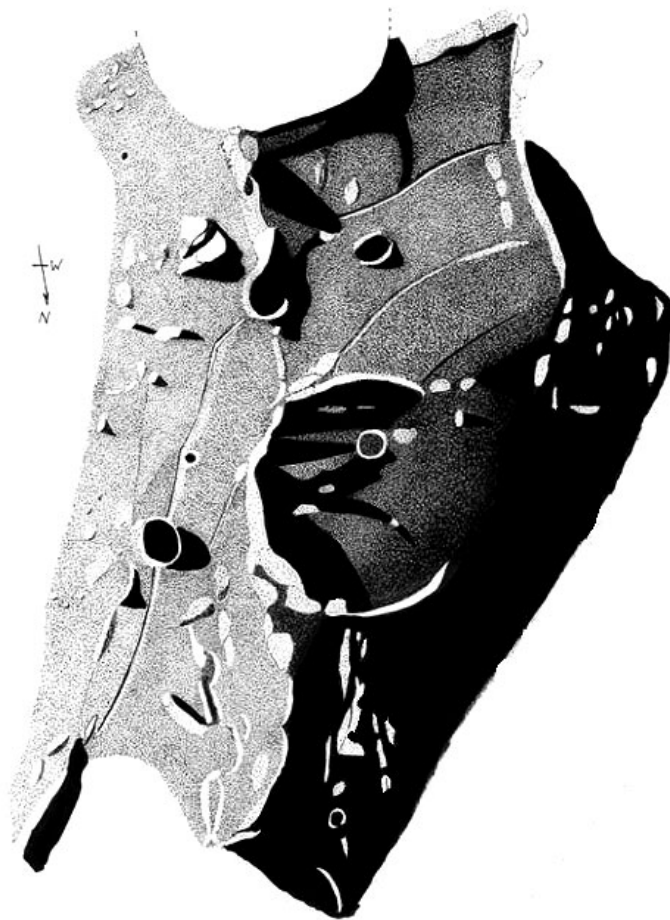
ALEXANDER VANDENBOHEDE – GENT, BELGIUM
CCD Images of Anaxagoras, Copernicus, Tycho (5)

RODRIGO VIEGAS – MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY
Sketches of Hyginus & Rille, Inghirami, Julius Ceasar & Dome, Kies & Dome

LUNAR CALENDAR - DEC. 2003 (UT)

07 ... 12:00 ... Moon at Apogee (252,450 miles – 406,268 km)
08 ... 20:38 ... Full Moon
16 ... 07:00 ... Moon 3.4 Degrees NNE of Jupiter
16 ... 17:43 ... Last Quarter
22 ... 12:00 ... Moon at Perigee (222,661 miles – 358,328 km)
23 ... 09:44 ... New Moon (Start of Lunation 1002)
25 ... 24:00 ... Moon 4.78 Degrees S of Venus
26 ... 03:00 ... Moon 5.1 Degrees SSE of Neptune
27 ... 08:00 ... Moon 5.0 Degrees S of Uranus
30 ... 10:00 ... Moon 3.4 Degrees S of Mars
30 ... 10:04 ... First Quarter

TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



HIPPALUS RILLE SYSTEM

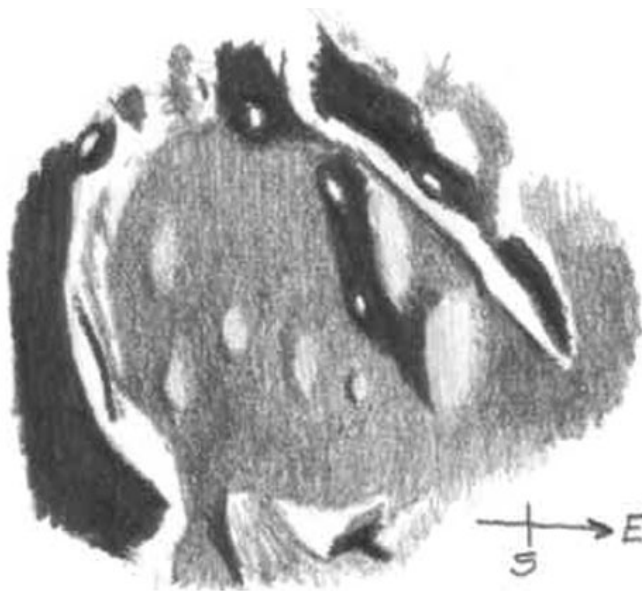
Sketch by Colin Ebdon – Colchester, Essex England
April 11, 2003 – 10 inch Newtonian – 183X – 236X

TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



LUNAR ECLIPSE

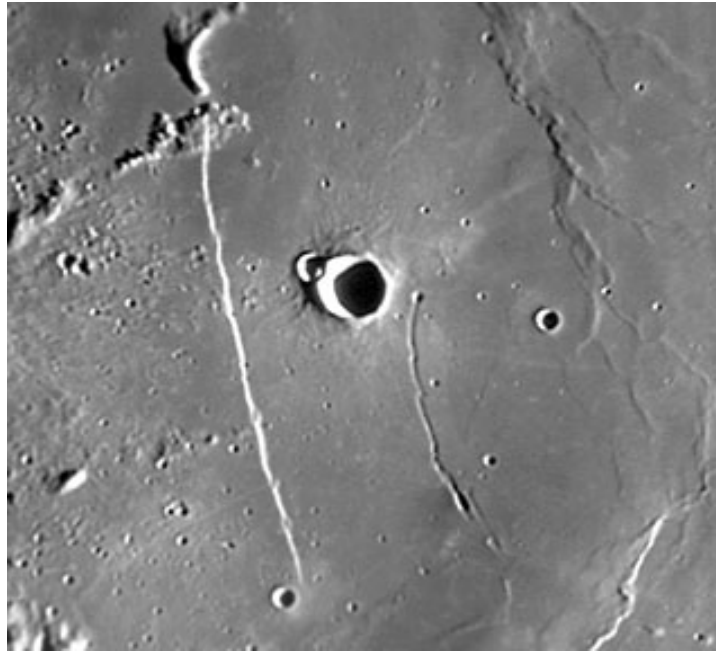
CCD Image by Howard Eskildsen – Ocala, Florida, USA
November 9, 2003 – 01:04 UT – 5 inch ETX



JULIUS CAESAR

Sketch by Rodrigo Viegas – Montevideo, Uruguay
November 21, 2001 – 114mm f/7.9 Newtonian

TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



STRAIGHT WALL (RUPES RECTA)
Video Still by K. C. Pau – Hong Kong, China
10 inch Newtonian – Philips Toucam Pro



PLATO AND MARE FRIGORIS
CCD Image by Ed Crandall – Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA
November 4, 2003 – 10 inch Newtonian – Starlight Xpress HX-516