



# THE LUNAR OBSERVER

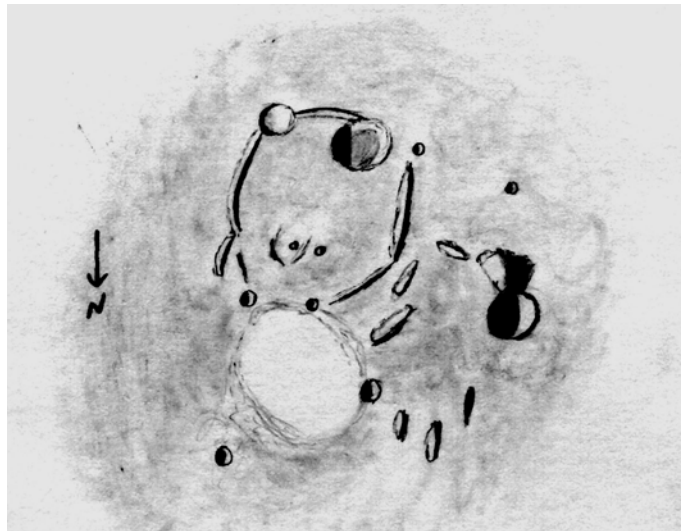
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AN INDEPENDENT NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS OF THE MOON – JANUARY 2004

EDITED BY: William M. Dembowski, FRAS - Elton Moonshine Observatory  
219 Old Bedford Pike (Elton) - Windber, PA 15963 - [Dembowski@Adelphia.net](mailto:Dembowski@Adelphia.net)

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## FEATURE OF THE MONTH



DESCARTES (11.7°S – 15.7°E) & DOLLAND (10.4°S – 14.4°E)

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

May 10, 2003 – 15cm Newtonian – 170x – Seeing 6-7/10

I checked this area on the evening of May9/10, 2003 after sketching Herschel earlier. Descartes is a ruined crater consisting of a series of low ridges. Descartes A is the large, crisp crater inside the southwest rim of Descartes, and a shallow, unidentified crater sits on Descartes' southeast edge. A small pit is just west of Descartes A, and two more craterlets are near the north rim (missing) of Descartes. The eastern one of this pair is Descartes C on the Lunar Quadrant Map; the other is not shown. I saw two tiny peaks within Descartes, and a possible ghost ring surrounding one of these peaks. Dolland is northwest of Descartes, smaller but probably deeper than Descartes A. A low, fanlike mound was noted on the south edge of Dolland, and a small crater was south of this feature. Two modest craters were northeast of Dolland; these are Dolland E and M as shown on the map. A striking feature was a substantial, bright, nebulous patch just north of Descartes, and just east of Dolland E. It looked like a bright cloud, and was more vivid than the sketch shows\*. There were also a few assorted peaks nearby. The whole area looked relatively smooth, considering that it is in a highland area southwest of Mare Tranquillitatis.

EDITOR: \*The nebulous patch referred to in the text has been digitally enhanced in the sketch.

# OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED

MICHAEL AMATO - WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, USA

Ray Maps of Aristarchus (3), Kepler (3), Menelaus (2), Messier (2), Proclus (2)

Sketch of Total Lunar Eclipse

ED CRANDALL - WINSTON-SALEM, NORTH CAROLINA, USA

CCD Image of Deslandres to Maginus

DANIEL DEL VALLE - AGUADILLA, PUERTO RICO

CCD Images of Proclus, Janssen, Theophilus Chain, Arago & Domes, Abenezra, Albategnius, Stofler,

Maginus, Montes Appeninus, Arago, Clavius

COLIN EBDON - COLCHESTER, ESSEX, ENGLAND

Sketch of Region West of Miraldi D

HOWARD ESKILDSEN – OCALA, FLORIDA, USA

CCD Images of Plato, Aristarchus, Grimaldi

JACK KRAMER - LIBERTYVILLE, ILLINOIS, USA

CCD Images of Aristillus, Triesnecker

ALEXANDER VANDENBOHEDE – BELGIUM

CCD Images of Lunar Eclipse (2), Reiner Gamma, Anaxagora, Stevinus A

ROBERT WLODARCZYK - CZESTOCHOWA, POLAND

Sketches of Region from Lade to Agrippa (Including Dembowski), Macrobius & Tisserand, Marius & Reiner, Mare Crisium at Sunset, Alpine Valley (with central rille), Neper & Mare Smythii

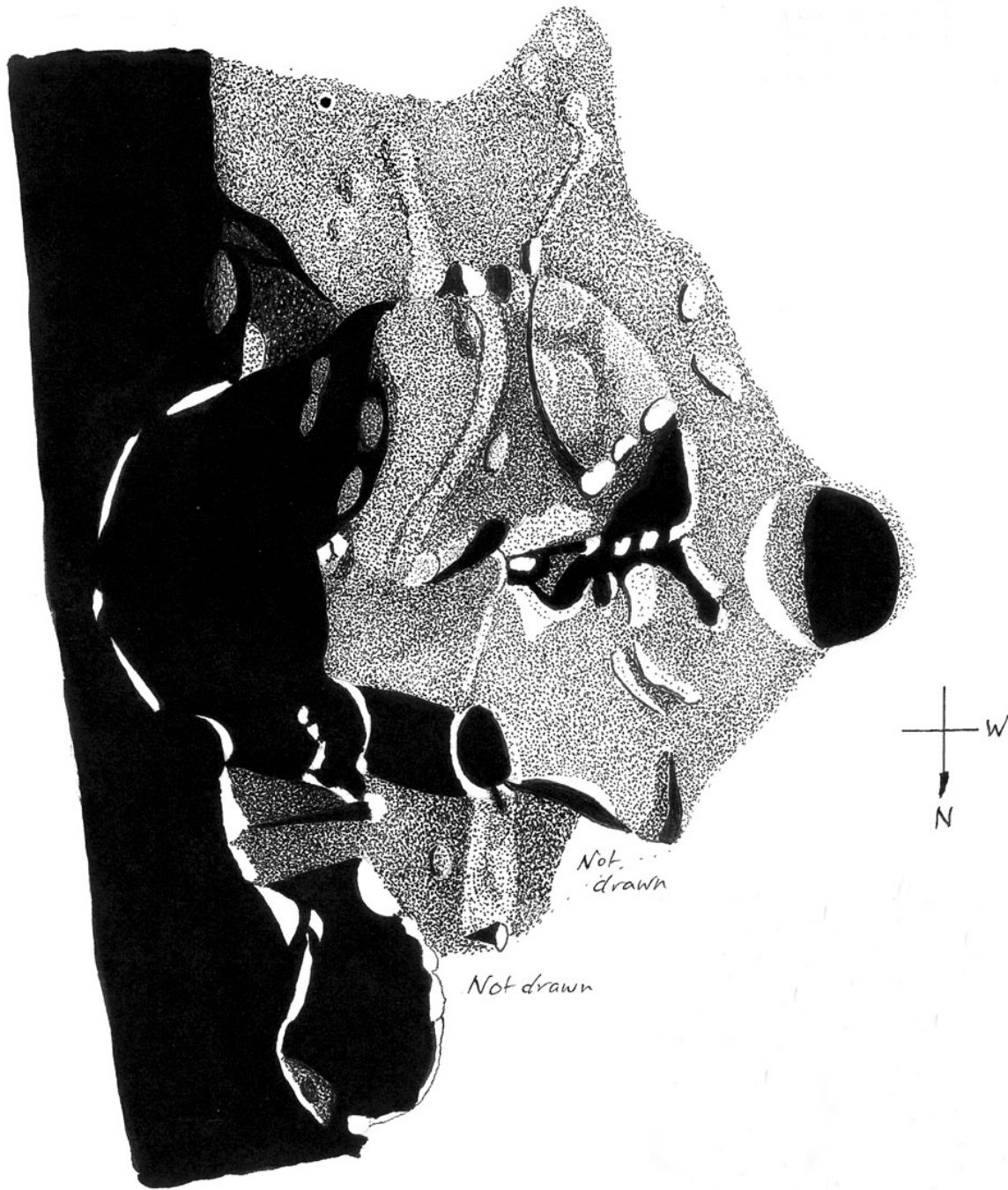
## From the Editor:

The results of the reader poll are in. The question was: Should the scope of TLO be expanded to include other Solar System objects? The response was overwhelmingly against such a change. Therefore, The Lunar Observer will continue to deal strictly with the Earth's only natural satellite. Thanks to all who took the time to respond. Your opinions were greatly appreciated.

Also, I am pleased to note that this issue of TLO marks the beginning of its 8th year of publication. Thanks to all of its faithful readers and especially those who contributed their observations to help make it a success.

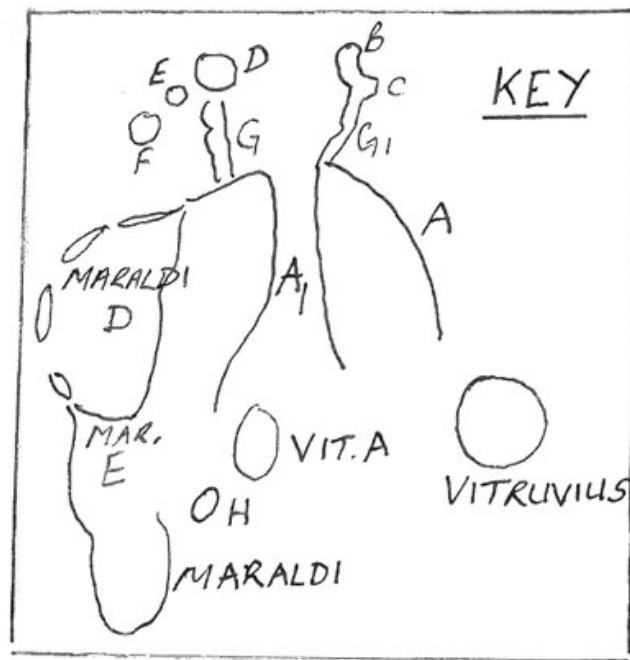
Clear & Steady Skies ..... WMD

# LUNAR NOTEBOOK



REGION WEST OF MARALDI D  
Sketch and Observing Notes by Colin Ebdon  
Colchester, Essex, England  
August 17, 2003 – 10inch Newtonian – 236x

## Notes on sketch of region west of Maraldi D – Colin Ebdon



### Key to sketch on Page 3

This was an “Opportunist” observation in that the writer had been observing Mars and had not planned to view the moon. However, on preliminary inspection, the area covered by the drawing stood out on the terminator as a rough “Plateau” like feature, rather like a simplified version of “Rumker” and seemed worth of closer inspection.

There appeared to be a smooth “cleft” or valley, marked A1 on the key, dividing the plateau into two distinct halves. The shield shaped feature marked A was the smoother and more well defined segment of the plateau.

The main features of note on the surrounding Mare floor were what appeared at first sight to be wrinkle-ridges at G and G1. As the sun set, however, G1 appeared to terminate in very shallow dome like features marked B and C, joined by a “tube”.

G became gradually more well defined, but did not appear as the three fairly distinct small mountains as shown in the Times Atlas. Close to the Southern end of G were 3 very shallow dome-like objects which would vanish very quickly away from the terminator. These seem to be clearly recorded in the Times Atlas close to the crater Maraldi B.

There was a small but well defined “classical” lunar dome between Vitruvius A and Maraldi itself.

EDITOR: The area covered by Colin’s sketch can be found on Map 25 of Rukl’s Atlas of the Moon. This observation was made five nights after Full Moon.

# LUNAR CALENDAR – JAN. 2004 (UT)

03 ... 19:00 ... Moon 3.1 Degrees SSE of the Pleiades  
03 ... 20:00 ... Moon at Apogee (252,095 miles – 405,696 km)  
07 ... 00:00 ... Moon 4.6 Degrees N of Saturn  
07 ... 15:41 ... Full Moon  
08 ... 05:00 ... Moon 2.1 Degrees S of Pollux  
09 ... 07:00 ... Moon 3.4 Degrees NNE of the Beehive Cluster  
11 ... 03:00 ... Moon 4.5 Degrees NNE of Regulus  
12 ... 11:00 ... Moon 3.1 Degrees NNE of Jupiter  
15 ... 04:46 ... Last Quarter  
18 ... 10:00 ... Moon 2.7 Degrees N of Antares  
19 ... 19:00 ... Moon at Perigee (225,415 miles – 362,760 km)  
21 ... 21:07 ... New Moon (Start of Lunation 1003)  
23 ... 24:00 ... Moon 4.1 Degrees SSE of Uranus  
28 ... 05:00 ... Moon 2.3 Degrees SSE of Mars  
29 ... 06:03 ... First Quarter  
31 ... 02:00 ... Moon 2.9 Degrees SSE of the Pleiades  
31 ... 14:00 ... Moon at Apogee (251,536 miles – 404,797 km)

## TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



### TRIESNECKER

CCD Image by Jack Kramer – Libertyville, Illinois, USA  
December 1, 2003 – 4 inch Refractor – Sony S70 CCD Camera

# TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



## DESLANDRES TO MAGINUS

CCD Image by Ed Crandall – Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA

December 2, 2003 – 10 inch Newtonian – Starlight Xpress HX-516



## APENNINE MOUNTAINS

CCD Image by Daniel del Valle – Aguadilla, Puerto Rico

December 1, 2003 – 8 inch SCT – Logitech QuickCam