



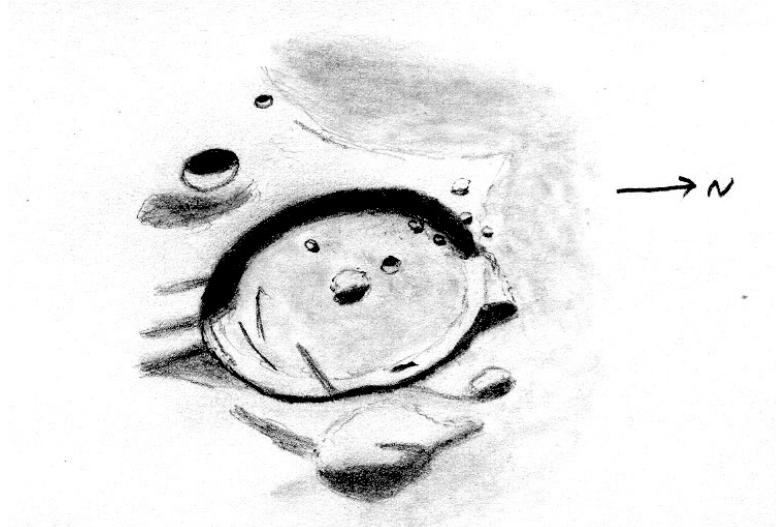
THE LUNAR OBSERVER

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENTS OF THE MOON – APRIL 2004

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FEATURE OF THE MONTH



VITELLO (Rukl Map #62)

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

September 20, 2003 – 10:40 to 11:16 UT

15cm Newtonian – 170x – Seeing 7/10

I sketched this crater on the morning of September 20, 2003 after timing two occultations. This crater is located at the southern end of Mare Humorum. It has a conspicuous central peak and three tiny peaks near the west and north rims. A small crater was noted north of the central peak. There is a substantial peak or swelling on the north rim and three small peaks to its west outside the northwest rim. Two lower elevations were noted east of Vitello and some wrinkling near the south rim. Southwest of Vitello lies the conspicuous crater Vitello P, and the tiny crater Lee H is northwest of Vitello P.

A fairly sharp boundary between mare and highland terrain is west of Vitello; this curved edge is actually part of the ghost ring Lee M, according to the Lunar Quadrant Map. The mare-highland boundary is less crisp north and east of Vitello. Despite its proximity to Mare Humorum, Vitello does not appear to have been flooded. Its walls are intact, and its floor is lighter than the nearby mare. (This is in contrast to nearby Doppelmayer which had its walls broken and was partly flooded.)

OBSERVATIONS RECEIVED

MICHAEL AMATO - WEST HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, USA

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

RAFAEL BENAVIDES PALENCIA – POSADAS, CORDOBA, SPAIN

Digital images of South Wall, Marian T Dome, Schroter's Valley, Marius, Reiner

DANIEL DEL VALLE - AGUADILLA, PUERTO RICO

Digital images of Madler Rays, Burg, Trio, Janssen, Bacon, Pitiscus, Albategnius, Aplanus, Manzinus, Maurolycus (2), Rima Arriadaeus, Kepler, Gassendi, Mons Gruithuisen, Schiller, Schickard, Vieta, Grimaldi, Hevelius, Wargentini, Sacrobosco, Abulfeda, W.Bond

Sketches of Wilson, Humboldt, Endymion

WILLIAM ELSBURY – MASON CITY, IOWA, USA

Digital image of Petavius

HOWARD ESKILDSEN – OCALA, FLORIDA, USA

Digital images of Ptolemaeus Chain (2)

JACK KRAMER – LILY LAKE, ILLINOIS, USA

Digital image of Atlas & Companion (2), Bessel

K. C. PAU – HONG KONG, CHINA

Digital images of Archimedes (2), Rupes Recta

GUIDO SANTACANA – SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

Sketches of Plato, Campanus & Rilles, Gruithuisen

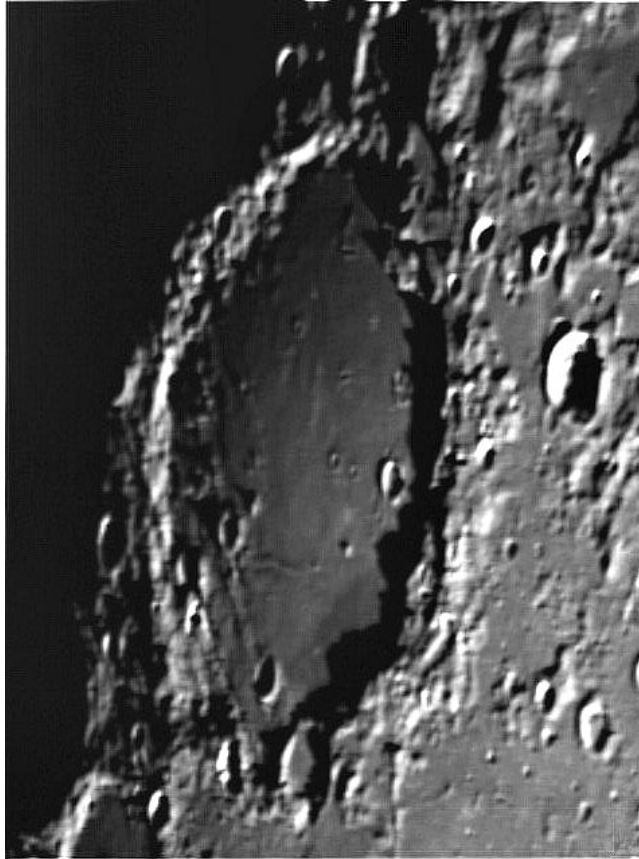
ALEXANDER VANDENBOHEDE – BELGIUM

Digital images of Copernicus, Reiner gamma, Tycho, Rays of Furnerius A & Stevenus A, Mare Serenitatis, Tycho

ROBERT WLODARCZYK - CZESTOCHOWA, POLAND

Sketches of Copernicus, Vallis Inghirami, Posidonius, Vendelines & environs

TARGET: Schickard



SCHICKARD (Rukl Map #62)

Digital Image by Rafael Benavides Palencia

Posadas, Cordoba, Spain

March 3, 2004 – 21:05 UT – 235mm SCT – 2x Barlow

Toucam Pro – Registax 2.0 Software

Text by Bill Dembowski

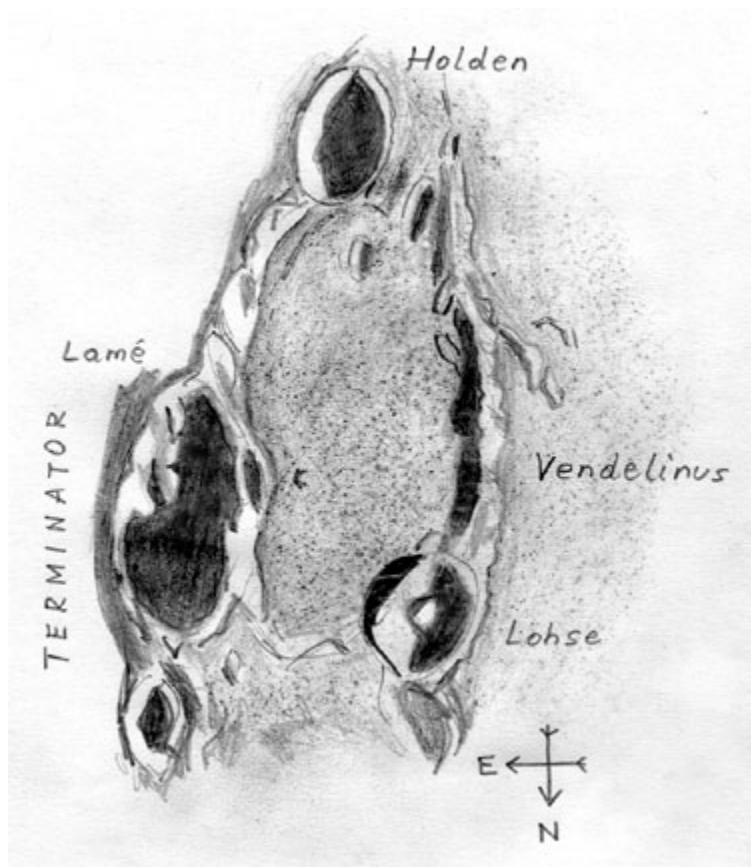
Our target for April is the large crater, Schickard. Schickard is a perfect example of what the early lunar observers called a “walled plain” believing that, somehow, they were different than “mere” craters. With a diameter of approximately 140 miles (226 km), Schickard is about the same size as Clavius but only a third as deep with its walls averaging 4500 ft. (1370 meters). The most prominent crater actually on the rim is Schickard E (20 miles – 32 km) on the extreme southern tip. There is a larger crater, Lehmann (33 miles – 53 km) which imposes upon, but is not really a part of, the northern rim.

The floor of Schickard is quite fascinating, with dark areas to the north and south, and a well defined light region in the center. Interestingly, all of the larger floor features lie in the light region, with several large craters seemingly connected by large rilles and ridges. Be sure to observe Schickard under a variety of local lighting conditions; a low sun to get a good look at the many floor features and a higher sun to trace the boundaries of the light and dark patches that divide the floor.

LUNAR CALENDAR – APRIL 2004 (UT)

02 ... 03:00 ... Moon 4.5 Degrees NNE of Regulus
05 ... 11:04 ... Full Moon
06 ... 01:00 ... Moon 3.6 Degrees NNE of Spica
08 ... 02:00 ... Moon at Perigee (226,519 miles – 364,537 km)
09 ... 04:00 ... Moon 2.1 Degrees N of Antares
12 ... 03:47 ... Last Quarter
15 ... 01:00 ... Moon 4.2 Degrees SSE of Uranus
19 ... 13:23 ... New Moon (Start of Lunation 1006)
22 ... 02:00 ... Moon 2.3 Degrees SSE of the Pleiades
24 ... 00:00 ... Moon at Apogee (251,9096 miles – 405,392 km)
25 ... 06:00 ... Moon 4.8 Degrees N of Saturn
27 ... 17:33 ... First Quarter
30 ... 05:00 ... Moon 3.3 Degrees NNE of Jupiter

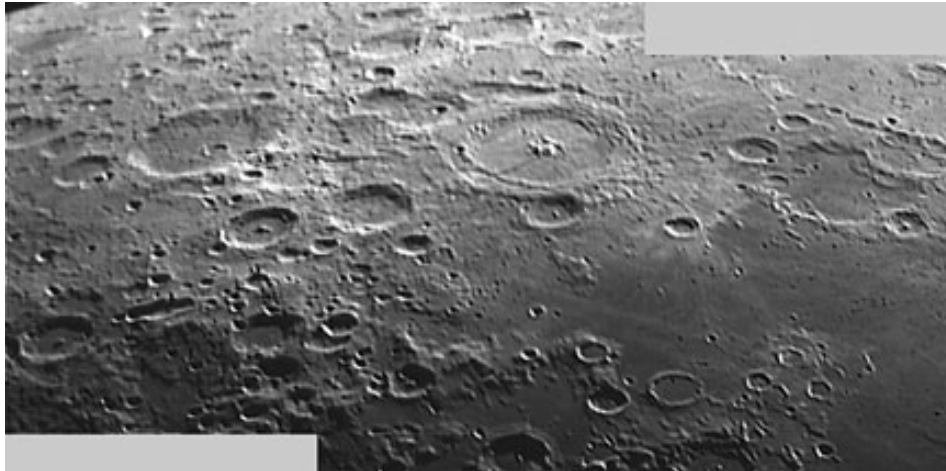
TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



VENDELINUS & ENVIRONS

Sketch by Robert Włodarczyk – Częstochowa, Poland
December 10, 2003 – 18cm Newtonian – 144x

TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



PETAVIUS & ENVIRONS

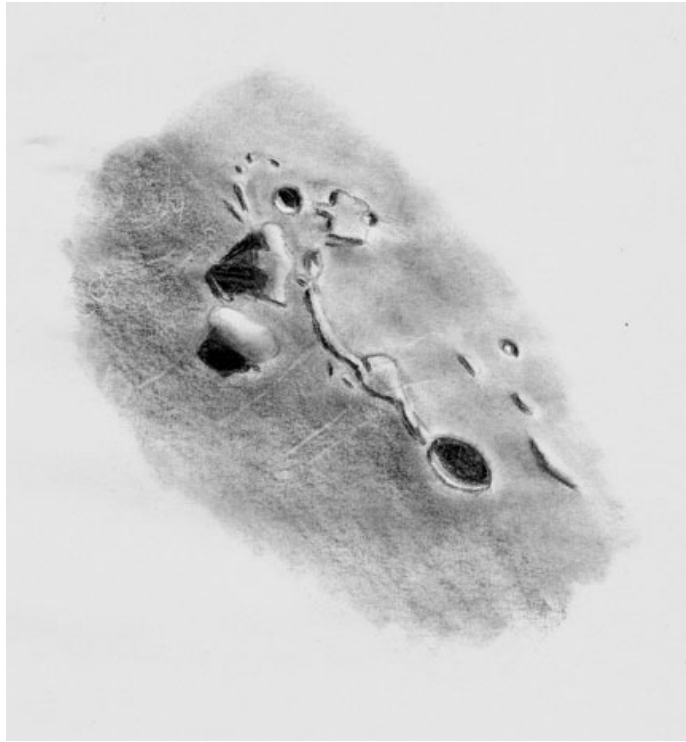
Digital Image by William Elsbury – Mason City, Iowa, USA
February 25, 2004 – 8 inch SCT – Philips 740 Camera



PTOLEMAEUS, ALPHONSUS, ARZACHEL

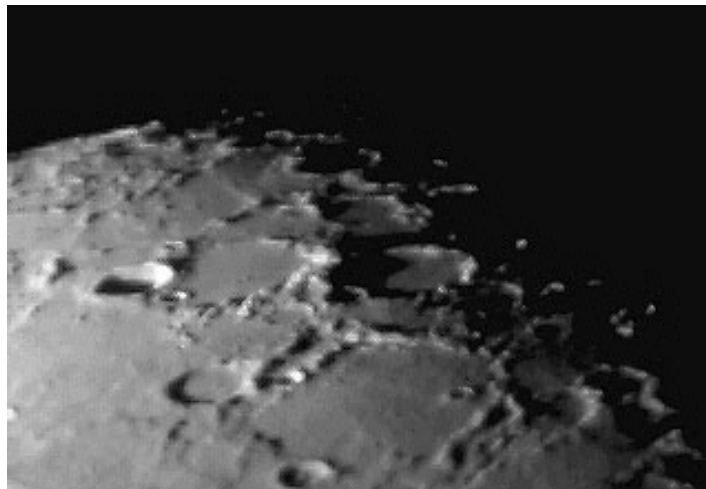
Digital Image by Howard Eskildsen – Ocala, Florida, USA
September 18, 2003 – Meade 125 ETX – Nikon Coolpix 880

TOPOGRAPHICAL STUDIES



GRUITHUISEN

Sketch by Guido Santacana – San Juan, Puerto Rico
October 7, 2003 – 120mm Refractor – 300x



W.C. BOND

Digital Image by Daniel del Valle – Aguadilla, Puerto Rico
March 12, 2004 – 8 inch SCT – Logitech QuickCam