

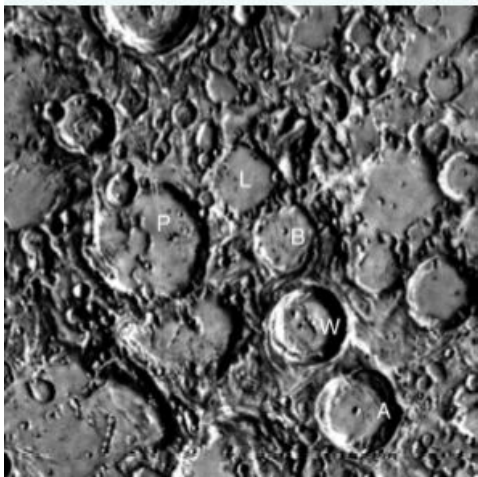
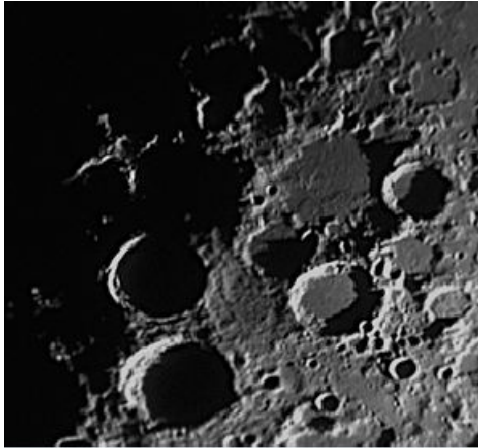
# Lunar "X" 2017

This is a famous "optical feature" on the Moon, which appears like the letter "X" when the terminator is at a suitable position. It is a fine example of how the combination of lighting and topography can combine to produce a pattern that repeats on each lunation, but only for a short time.

The "X" is observable for about 3 hours around the lunar First Quarter. If one knows when and where to look, the "X" can be observed with a modest telescope or even well-supported binoculars.

The illusion of the "X" is created by sunlight falling on the rims/ridges between the craters La Caille, Blanchinus, and Purbach. It appears when there is a 1.2 degree sun elevation over crater Werner.

There is only one good "X" this year (**Bold print**) in November. Partial "X"'s (about 1 hour) will occur in April and September. Daylight "X"'s are underlined.



*The lunar region centered on the topography that forms the X: Purbach (P), La Caille (L), Blanchinus (B), Werner (W), and Aliancis (A).*



*SWAOG member Jeff's (WD9GVU) award winning photo of the Lunar X taken on March 22, 2010 through a Borg 76mm ED APO refractor with a 5mm Nagler.*

Start times for fully formed Lunar "X". **Bold** are best opportunities.

JAN 05 00:54 CST  
MAY 03 05:10 CDT  
AUG 29 03:39 CDT  
DEC 25 08:50 CST

FEB 03 14:46 CST  
JUN 01 16:36 CDT  
**SEP 27 16:25 CDT**

MAR 05 03:56 CST  
JUL 01 03:57 CDT  
OCT 27 05:51 CDT

**APR 03 17:21 CDT**  
JUL 30 15:33 CDT  
**NOV 25 18:46 CST**

CDT - Central Daylight Time    CST - Central Standard Time

Wikipedia web link for info:

David M.F. Chapman. *The Lunar X Files*:

South West Astronomy Observers Group (SWAOG)

<http://the-moon.wikispaces.com/Lunar+X>

<http://wasociety.us/Lunar-X.pdf>

<http://www.swaog.com/>