

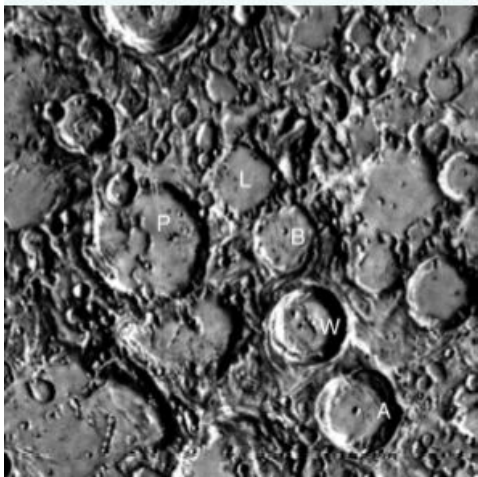
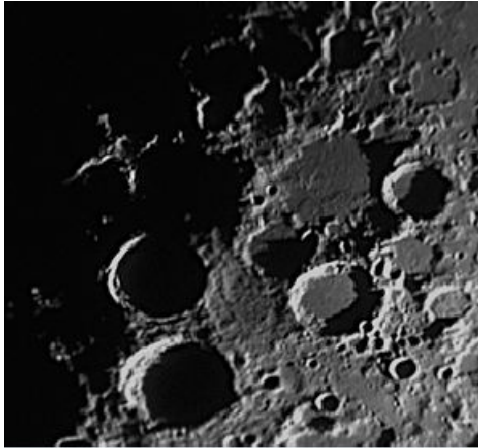
# Lunar "X" 2018

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 December. Moon will set during January "X". Sun will set at end of October "X". 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 23 22:42 CST**  
MAY 22 02:02 CDT  
SEP 17 01:32 CDT

FEB 22 12:07 CST  
JUN 20 13:37 CDT  
OCT 16 14:30 CDT

MAR 24 01:57 CDT  
JUL 20 01:14 CDT  
NOV 15 02:59 CST

APR 22 14:13 CDT  
AUG 18 13:09 CDT  
**DEC 14 16:46 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/>