

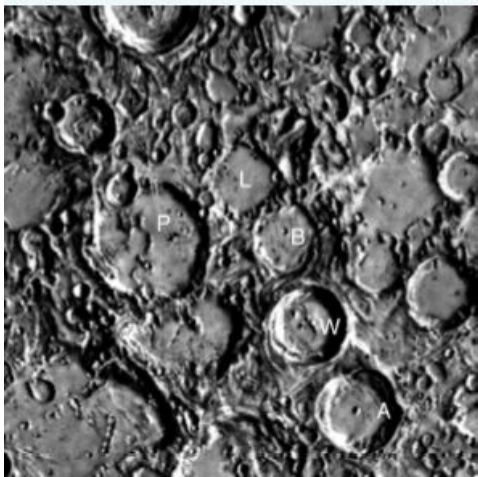
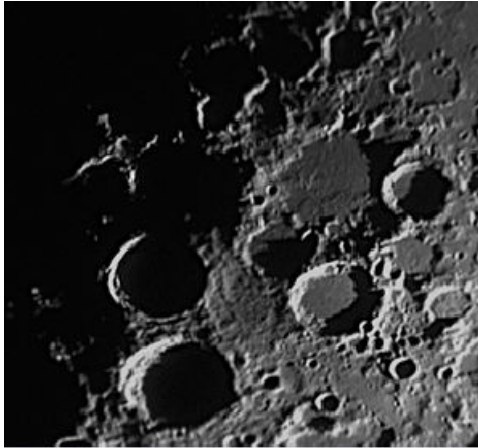
Lunar "X" 2019

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 are four good "X"s this year (**Bold print**) with best in February. April, June, and August "X"s start good with Moon setting later in events. In October Moon sets at start. 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 13 06:35 CST
MAY 11 11:25 CDT
SEP 06 10:47 CDT

FEB 11 20:13 CST
JUN 09 23:17 CDT
OCT 05 23:17 CDT

MAR 13 10:26 CDT
JUL 09 10:58 CDT
NOV 04 11:18 CST

APR 11 23:10 CDT
AUG 07 22:43 CDT
DEC 04 00:44 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/>