

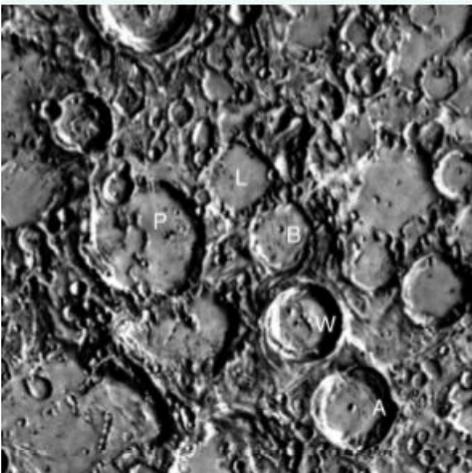
Lunar "X" 2020

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 two good "X"'s (**Bold print**) in March and April. June "X" is good for first hour. August, October, and December "X"'s have Moon setting early in events. 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 FEB	APR 29 - 2104 CDT	JUL 27 - 0825 CDT	OCT 23 - 2044 CDT
MAR 01 - 1811 CST	<u>MAY 29 - 0910 CDT</u>	AUG 25 - 2006 CDT	NOV 22 - 0854 CST
<u>MAR 31 - 0825 CDT</u>	JUN 27 - 2052 CDT	SEP 24 - 0809 CDT	DEC 21 - 2233 CST

CDT - Central Daylight Time CST - Central Standard Time

Wikipedia *Lunar X*
 David M.F. Chapman. *The Lunar X Files:*
 SWAOG (South West Astronomy Observers Group)

https://the-moon.us/wiki/Lunar_X
<http://wasociety.us/Lunar-X.pdf>
<http://www.swaog.com/>