

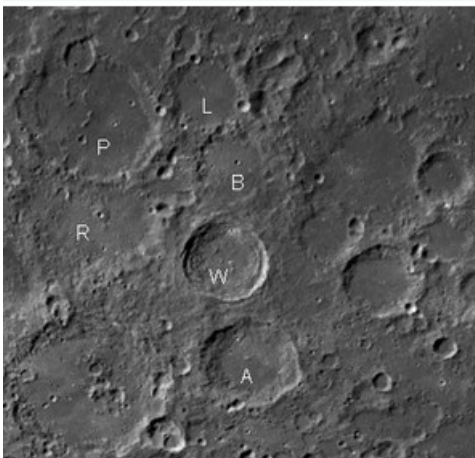
Lunar X 2024

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 -0.90° Sun alt over the X (using LAT -24.9 /LONG $.9$).

There are six (**Bold print**) good X's this year!! Highlights include FEB near M45, APR near Gemini Twins, JUN near Comet C/2023 A3, & DEC near Saturn. One daylight X (underlined) in May.



Purbach(P), La Caille(L), and Blanchinus(B) form the X. Werner(W) and Aliancis(A) make a tic-tac-toe. Regiomontanus(R) is below X.



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(hhmm) for fully formed Lunar X. **Bold** are best opportunities.

JAN 18 - 0305 CST	APR 15 - 2241 CDT	JUL 13 - 0948 CDT	OCT 09 - 1909 CDT
FEB 16 - 1749 CST	<u>MAY 15 - 1113 CDT</u>	AUG 11 - 2031 CDT	NOV 08 - 0649 CST
MAR 17 - 0910 CDT	JUN 13 - 2249 CDT	SEP 10 - 0729 CDT	DEC 07 - 2036 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)

Start times by Dana T(Cloudynights)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunar_X

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

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

<https://www.cloudynights.com/index>