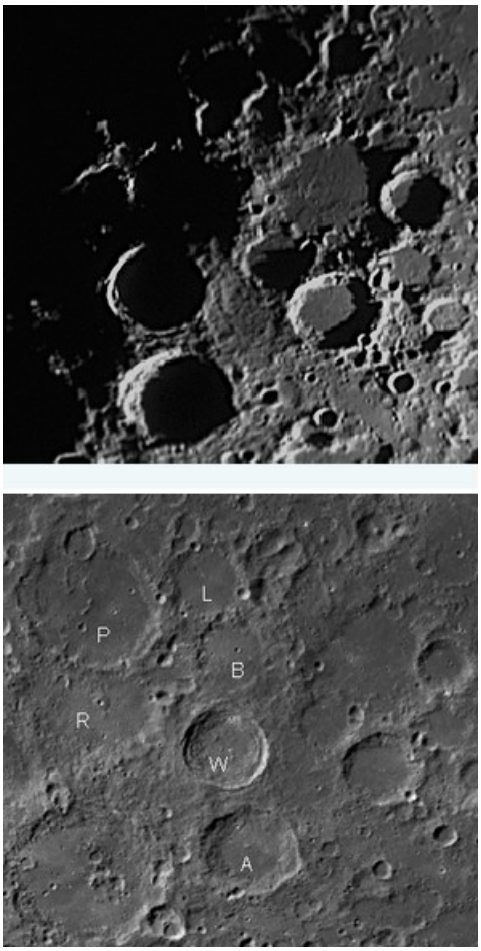
Lunar X 2026

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(after listed time) 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 location.

There are no good X's(**Bold print**) this year. The best will be in MAR(with Jupiter near) and May with Sun setting(**Bold** & <u>underlined</u>) at end of events. However, FEB will have M45 near Moon before it sets and the X not yet fully formed. Also three daylight X's(<u>underlined</u>).



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.

<u>JAN 25 - 1032 CST</u>	APR 24 - 0550 CDT	<u>JUL 21 - 1505 CDT</u>	OCT 18 - 0037 CDT
FEB 24 - 0131 CST	**<u>MAY 23 - 1744 CDT</u>**	AUG 20 - 0130 CDT	<u>NOV 16 - 1301 CST</u>
<u>MAR 25 - 1644 CDT</u>	JUN 22 - 0441 CDT	SEP 18 - 1231 CDT	DEC 16 - 0335 CST

CDT - Central Daylight Time CST - Central Standard Time

Wikipedia *Lunar X* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lunar_X
David M.F. Chapman. *The Lunar X Files:* http://wasociety.us/Lunar-X.pdf
SWAOG (South West Astronomy Observers Group) http://www.swaog.com/
Start times by Dana T(Cloudynights) https://www.cloudynights.com/index