Observing List

Lunar Program Observing List

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The List

The 100 features to be observed for the Lunar Program are listed below. At the top of each section is a space to list the instruments used in the program. After that are five columns: CHK, Object, Feature, Date and Time. The "CHK" column should be used to check off the feature as you observe it. The "Object" column lists the features in Naked Eye, Binocular, and Telescopic order, and tells you what you are observing and when the best time is to observe it. The "Feature" column lists the 100 features to be observed. Finally, the "Date" and "Time" columns allow you to log when you observed the objects. In the last section, we have listed the 10 optional activities, and broken them down as to naked eye, binocular, and telescopic. Also on page 4, we have included four illustrations to help with observing four of the naked eye features.

We certainly hope that you find the Lunar Program useful in helping you become more familiar with earth's nearest neighbor. If after completing this program you would like to do more work in this area, you may contact The Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers.

Julius L. Benton Jr.

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Until then, good luck, clear skies, and good observing.

For a printable version of the Checklist, click here

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Lunar Program Checklist

Naked Eye Objects

Instruments Used _____

	OBJECT	FEATURE	DATE	TIME
[ ]	(Within 72 Hrs of new)	Old Moon in New Moon's Arms	_____	_____
[ ]	(Within 72 Hrs of new)	New Moon in Old Moon's Arms	_____	_____
[ ]	(Within 40 Hrs of new)	Crescent Moon, Waxing	_____	_____
[ ]	(Within 48 Hrs of New)	Crescent Moon, Waning	_____	_____
[ ]		Man in the Moon	_____	_____
[ ]		Woman in the Moon	_____	_____
[ ]		Rabbit in the Moon	_____	_____
[ ]		Cow Jumping Over the Moon	_____	_____
	Maria			
[ ]		Crisium	_____	_____
[ ]		Fecunditatis	_____	_____
[ ]		Serenitatis	_____	_____
[ ]		Tranquillitatis	_____	_____
[ ]		Nectaris	_____	_____
[ ]		Imbrium	_____	_____
[ ]		Frigoris	_____	_____

[ ]		Nubium	_____	_____
[ ]		Humorum	_____	_____
[ ]		Oceanus Procellarum	_____	_____

Binocular Objects

Instruments Used _____

	OBJECT	FEATURE	DATE	TIME
[ ]		Lunar Rays	_____	_____
[ ]		Sinus Iridum	_____	_____
[ ]		Sinus Medii	_____	_____
[ ]		Sinus Roris	_____	_____
[ ]		Palus Somnii	_____	_____
[ ]		Palus Epidemiarum	_____	_____
[ ]		Mare Vaporum	_____	_____
	Craters			
[ ]	~4 Days old	Langrenus	_____	_____
[ ]		Vendelinus	_____	_____
[ ]		Petavius	_____	_____
[ ]		Cleomedes	_____	_____
[ ]		Atlas	_____	_____
[ ]		Hercules	_____	_____
[ ]		Endymion	_____	_____
[ ]		Macrobius	_____	_____
[ ]	~7 Days old	Piccolomini	_____	_____
[ ]		Theophilus	_____	_____
[ ]		Cyrillus	_____	_____
[ ]		Catharina	_____	_____
[ ]		Posidonius	_____	_____
[ ]		Fracastorius	_____	_____
[ ]		Aristoteles	_____	_____
[ ]		Eudoxus	_____	_____
[ ]		Cassini	_____	_____
[ ]		Hipparchus	_____	_____

[ ]		Albategnius	_____	_____
[ ]		Aristillus	_____	_____
[ ]		Autolycus	_____	_____
[ ]		Maurolycus	_____	_____
[ ]	~10 Days old	Plato	_____	_____
[ ]		Archimedes	_____	_____
[ ]		Ptolemaeus	_____	_____
[ ]		Alphonsus	_____	_____
[ ]		Arzachel	_____	_____
[ ]		Walter	_____	_____
[ ]		Maginus	_____	_____
[ ]		Tycho	_____	_____
[ ]		Clavius	_____	_____
[ ]		Eratosthenes	_____	_____
[ ]		Longomontanus	_____	_____
[ ]		Copernicus	_____	_____
[ ]		Bullialdus	_____	_____
[ ]		Aristarchus	_____	_____
[ ]		Gassendi	_____	_____
[ ]	~14 Days old	Kepler	_____	_____
[ ]		Grimaldi	_____	_____

Telescopic Objects

Instruments Used _____

	OBJECT	FEATURE	DATE	TIME
[ ]		Sinus Aestuum	_____	_____
[ ]		Lacus Mortis	_____	_____
[ ]		Palus Putredinis	_____	_____
[ ]		Promontorium Laplace	_____	_____
[ ]		Promontorium Heraclides	_____	_____
[ ]		Promontorium Agarum	_____	_____
[ ]		Montes Alpes	_____	_____
[ ]		Montes Apenninus	_____	_____

[ ]		Mons Hadley	_____	_____
[ ]		Mons Piton	_____	_____
[ ]		Mons Pico	_____	_____
[ ]		Rupes Altai	_____	_____
[ ]		Rima Hyginus	_____	_____
[ ]		Vallis Schroteri	_____	_____
[ ]		Vallis Alpes	_____	_____
[ ]		Rupes Recta (straight wall)	_____	_____
	Craters			
[ ]	~4 Days old	Picard	_____	_____
[ ]		Furnerius	_____	_____
[ ]		Petavius Wall	_____	_____
[ ]		Messier/Messier A	_____	_____
[ ]		Proclus	_____	_____
[ ]		Fabricius	_____	_____
[ ]	~7 Days old	Plinius	_____	_____
[ ]		Mitchell	_____	_____
[ ]		Cassini A	_____	_____
[ ]		Manilius	_____	_____
[ ]		Gemma Frisius	_____	_____
[ ]	~10 Days old	Davy	_____	_____
[ ]		Pitatus	_____	_____
[ ]		Billy	_____	_____
[ ]		Fra Mauro	_____	_____
[ ]		Clavius craterlets	_____	_____
[ ]		Hippalus	_____	_____
[ ]		Herschel, J.	_____	_____
[ ]	~14 Days old	Schickard	_____	_____
[ ]		Reiner Gamma	_____	_____

Optional Activities:

Naked Eye:

1. Estimate first quarter phase within eight hours.
2. Estimate third quarter phase within eight hours.
3. Estimate full moon within thirty-six hours.
4. Plot moon's position against the stars for three consecutive days.
5. Compare the size of the full moon on the horizon with the full moon on the meridian using a dime held at arm's length.
6. Find the thinnest phase by which you can read newsprint.

Binocular:

1. Sketch libration - use Mare Crisium or Grimaldi for examples.
2. Sketch a lunar map - use any scale for binoculars only.

Telescopic:

1. Plot the moon's hourly motion against the stars for two hours or more.
2. Measure the height of a lunar mountain - need to calculate the sun's elevation at the mountain and estimate the shadow length - try Mt. Piton.

Related Links

Lunar Program Introduction
The Man, Woman, and Rabbit in the Moon, and the Cow Jumping Over the Moon
Find Your Lunar Program Award