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A good night for observing Lunar Mara

1 message

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To: "ORAS@groups.io Notification" <oras@groups.io>, "KiskiAstronomers@groups.io" <KiskiAstronomers@groups.io>

hi all,

Last night was another somewhat hazy evening here in Baldwin, but the light haze made for a nice Moon filter! 😊

I sat my SeeStar S30 out on a patio table, powered-up and connected the phone app, and headed back indoors to my desk with Ruki's "Atlas of the Moon" opened.

After spending a couple minutes acquiring the Moon & centering, auto-focusing, and tweaking the exp & gain before finally settling on auto, I settled back into my cushion chair and enjoyed a low-power wide-field view of the Lunar Mara.

Starting at the top of the scope's alt-az view, is my favorite mara, Mare Crisium - "Sea of Crises", 345 miles in diameter. Just below are the larger impact basins Mare Serenitatis, (Sea of Serenity - 419 miles), Mare Tranquillitatis, (Sea of Tranquility - 544 miles), and Mare Fecunditatis, (Sea of Fertility - 520 miles), and the smaller Mare Nectaris, (Sea of Nectar - 210 miles).

Continuing downwards and to the left are the huge basins of Mare Imbrium, (Sea of Rains - 712 miles), Oceanus Procellarum, ("Ocean of Storms - 1611 miles), and towards the center & lower, a number of smaller less distinct Mara, Mare Vaporum, (Sea of Vapours - 150 miles), Mare Insularum, (Sea of Islands - 318 miles), Mare Nubium, (Sea of Clouds - 444 miles), Mare Cognitum, (The Known Sea - 220 miles), and finally Mare Humorum, (Sea of Moisture - 425 miles).



The extensive ray structure of the crater Tycho was also a prominent feature, along with several smaller ray systems visible.

Larry