

*15-Day
MOON*



15-Day "Snow Moon"

It's an early evening in late February 2021, and I'm out with my 4" f/6.4 refractor to have a look at the almost full "Snow Moon". After a week with snow and frost down to -20°C, we have now seen a change in the weather with day temperatures up to 15°C and a southerly wind carrying fine red sand up from the Sahara Desert in N. Africa. Spring is now right at our doorstep with a temperature this evening around 5°C and a transparency varying ~ 2-4/7 due to atmospheric dust, humidity and thin high cirrus plus drifting low Cumulus Fractus clouds. The seeing is also reduced to 5-6/10 due to high altitude winds, but in spite of these not optimal conditions, I decide to have a look at the *Snow Moon* anyway as it has been weeks since I had a chance of to do any astronomy!

The Moon is tilted around 5° up NE in both latitude and longitude, so I concentrate my observations on the **Oriente Basin** and the **South Polar regions**. The illumination is 99.7%, so the terminator is running just behind the Outer Rook Mountain ring of the Orientale Basin, meaning that *Lacus Veris*, *The Inner Rook Mts.* and *Mare Orientale* itself is in deep shadow, but the craters along the *Outer Rooks* and the *Cordillera Mts.* are well seen, as are indeed the formations W of Schickard. The Valles: *Inghirami*, *Baade* and *Bouvard* are all well seen, and these radial ejecta structures from the Orientale basin can be difficult to spot in less favorable libration.

The below images are cropped parts of my full Moon image from this evening.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/139500911@N04/50989127123/in/datetaken-public/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/139500911@N04/50989133743/in/datetaken-public/>



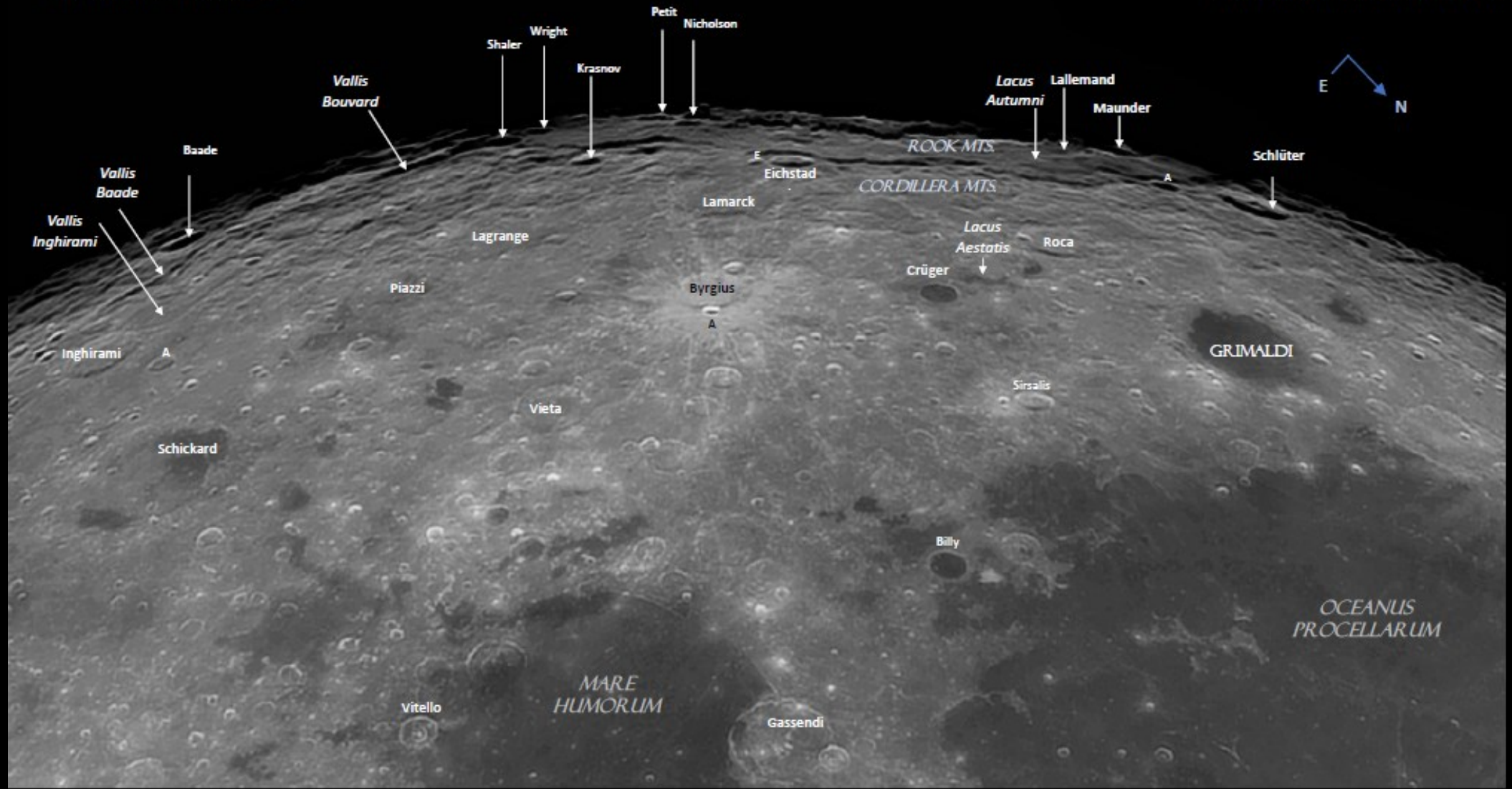
Moon, HITS observatory

56°N 12°E, Copenhagen Denmark
Altitude+32° towards the E in Leo
2021- 02-26 20:30 Local (UT+1)
Lunation 15 Days, Illumination 99.7%
Libration Lat: -5°50', Long -4°50'

ORIENTALE BASIN

Zeiss 100/640mm APQ refracto

Camera ZWO ASI183MM
ROI: 2712x3640 px
Recording: 30sec AVI @ 30 FPS
Stacking: AS!3
Processing: AI deconvolution & wavel



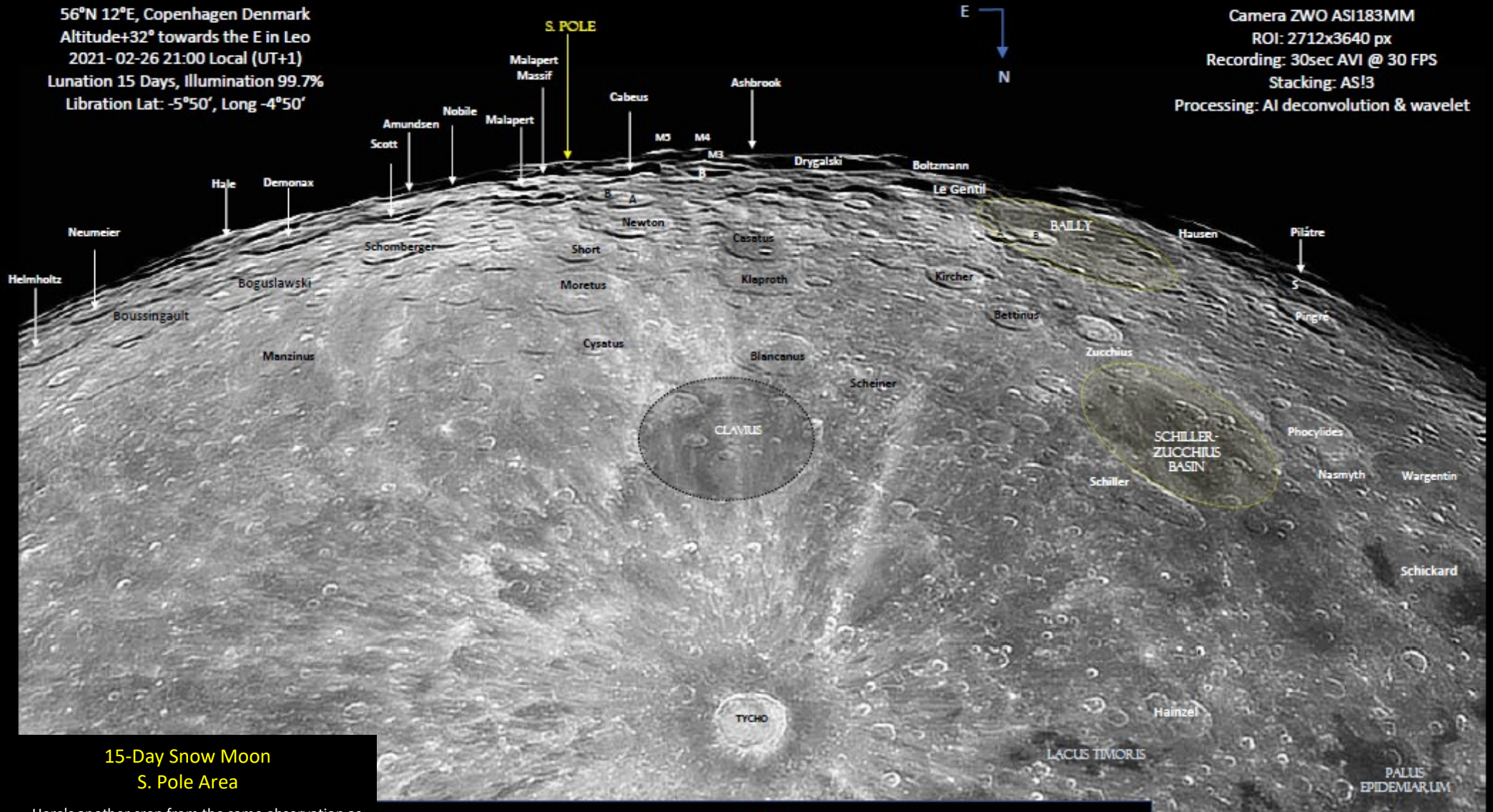
Moon, HITS observatory

SOUTH POLE AREA

Zeiss 100/640mm APQ refractor

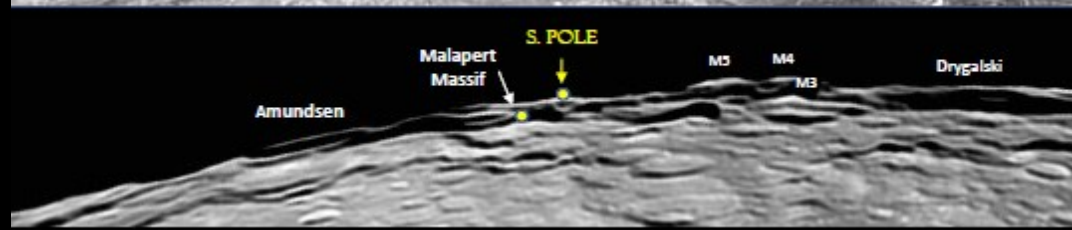
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2021-02-26 21:00 Local (UT+1)
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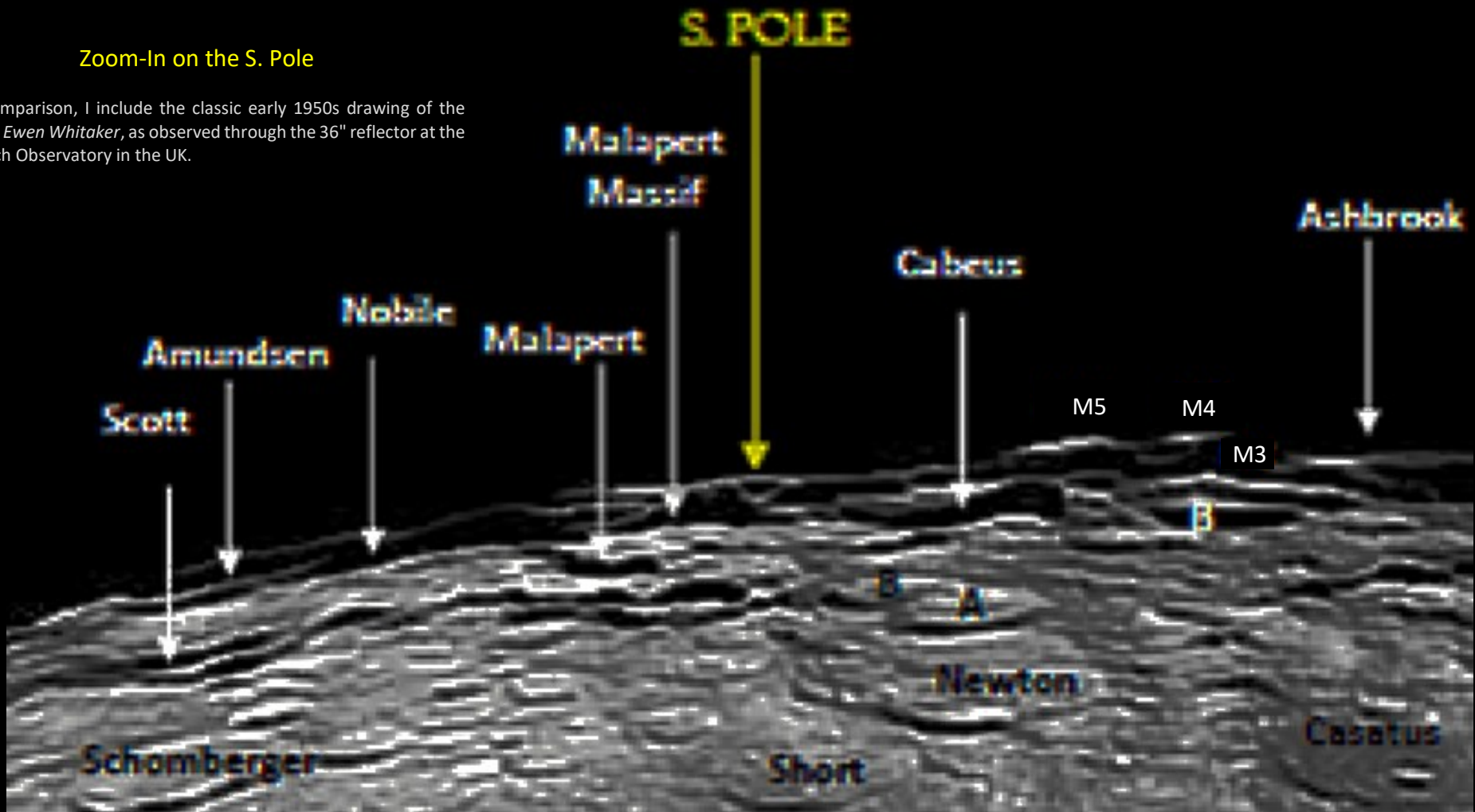
15-Day Snow Moon S. Pole Area

Here's another crop from the same observation as the previous post, -- this time focusing on the **South Pole region**; The SW section was particularly favorably tilted towards the Earth, with the large Bailly basin and surroundings easily studied, but also the S. Pole itself could be glimpsed, with the Malapert crater and some of the mountain Massifs bordering the S. Pole Aitken Basin (M5, M4).



Zoom-In on the S. Pole

For comparison, I include the classic early 1950s drawing of the region by *Ewen Whitaker*, as observed through the 36" reflector at the Greenwich Observatory in the UK.



*16-Day
MOON*

