

Observers who contributed observations in the month of May 2005 are: Clive Brook (UK) who observed on 22nd May the crater Aristarchus. On 14th May David O. Darling (USA) examined Mare Crisium, Theophilus, and Proclus. Brendan Shaw (UK) observed Kant, Pitiscus and Censorinus on 14 May and Thaeatetus, Pitatus, and Plato on 17th May. Finally Don Spain (USA) observed on the 17th & 18th of May and examined: Archimedes, Alphonsus, Plato, Ptolemaeus, Straight Wall, Copernicus, Tycho, and Moretus. The total number of days that we had observations for was 4 and the total number of minutes for which observations were received was covered was 376. No LTP were reported during these observations.



Pitiscus by Brendan Shaw taken on 2005 May 14 UT 20:52

In the March 1991 edition of *Sky and Telescope*, Dr Winifred Sawtell Cameron published an interesting article on LTP. One of the observations shown, although not discussed in detail, were two photographs taken by Gary Slayton of Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA on 1981 September 5 (no UT was given). They showed: “a bright glow in the crater Pitiscus that appeared to move. Slayton alleges to have observed it visually, noting that it looked gray with a tinge of red”. I have not reproduced the 1981 images here as these are probably copyright, but if you have the above mentioned *Sky and Telescope* then you can look these up on page 266. During the generation of the May 2005 predictions of repeat illumination and libration conditions, the above observation was flagged up for UK observers as occurring on 2005 May 14 from 19:50-22:17UT. Brendan Shaw was out observing on that night and managed to obtain the image seen in Fig 1. I do not have a good copy of the 1991 *Sky and Telescope* article, so would be very interested to hear from readers out there who could compare the images. It is likely that we have the above observation in the archives of ALPO or the BAA, but at the time of writing have not had a chance to look this up. The BAA LTP archives are contained in several large boxes and it takes considerable time to locate observations, although observations are gradually being scanned in and permanently filed on DVD disk to make access and retrieval easier.

The 1981 observation sounds to me like image flare that crops up on photographs and CCD images due to internal reflection within the telescope eyepiece tube, although Slayton did report to having seen it visually. However the *Sky and Telescope* article does not state whether he was looking through the camera at the time or through an eyepiece? There is also another problem, the *Sky and Telescope* article does not give a time of the observation, so in the computer predictions, there are two possible time periods for 1981 Sep 5 when the Moon was above the horizon (and it was night) at Fort Lauderdale (assume alt > 5deg): 00:00-03:09 (AM) and (23:35-23:59 (PM). Brendan Shaw’s observation in Fig 1 corresponds to the “AM” predictions. Obviously Brendan’s observation will not show a moving bright spot, as this sort of thing is not the norm, but his CCD image is useful for checking whether the date and time slots for the 1981 observation are correct. Also when we find a better copy of the original 1981 observation, then it should be feasible to scan this in, align and normalize it, and then subtract from Brendan’s “usual” appearance image in order to show what the difference is. In this way if the effect is image glare it should reveal some consistent shape

that will appear on both of Slayton's images, otherwise it may vindicate the 1981 images as being due to a cause other than glare.

Anyway I will keep you posted with further developments in this analysis. I included the above report to show how useful your observations are if you can observe during repeat illumination and/or libration conditions as listed in the predictions. Your observations can really help eliminate many past LTP reports that have remained an enigma for a number of years, or high light other reports that may be genuine LTP. So do please try to make some observations during July at some of the times given in the predictions as your reports will be very helpful in our analysis!

Further predictions, including the more numerous illumination only events can be found on the following web site: <http://www.cs.nott.ac.uk/~acc/Lunar/tlp.htm> . For members who do not have access to the internet, please drop me a line and I will post predictions to you. If you would like to join the LTP telephone alert team, please let me know your phone No. and how late you wish to be contacted. If in the unlikely event you see a LTP, please give me a call on my cell phone: +44 (0)798 505 5681 and I will alert other observers. Note when telephoning from outside the UK you must not use the (0). When phoning from within the UK please do not use the +44!

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