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## Eighteen Day Old Moon‡

Tonight's Waning Gibbous Moon is in the sky throughout the evening, setting near dawn. It transits a few hours after midnight.

**Key Features to Observe Tonight**

What little remains visible of the dark **Mare Crisium** tonight makes it appear something like a bite taken out of the Moon.

Northwest of the mare, past the prominent and bright crater **Proclus**, **Macrobius** appears as a sharp circle. Much farther north, at about the same distance in from the terminator, is **Atlas** and its close neighbor to the west, **Hercules**. They show nicely, with good contrast. Tonight will be the final night for observing them this lunation.

South of Mare Crisium, lying mostly below the equator, is the larger **Mare Fecunditatis**. At its northwest, where it merges with **Mare Tranquillitatis**, is the crater **Taruntius**. Its dark flooded floor matches that of the Mare, so only its rim stands out, appearing tonight as a thin, bright ring.

At roughly the same distance from the terminator and further south from Fecunditatis is the nice crater **Santbech**, with its several related craters.

About the same distance again to the south is the similarly sized crater **Rheita**. The southwest portion of this crater's rim partly destroys the **Rheita Valley**. The Rheita Valley is a long, uneven scoop with a slight southeast curve. Its unusual shape is the result of a series of craters which have run together, which give the appearance of a wide valley when viewed under low power. With a telescope of modest power, you should be able to discern several of the individual impact craters which form it.

‡with permission from **Lunar Discoverer User's Manual** by Robert Duvall, 2013

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