



The image above was taken for my second cloud image. I took this image with the intent of catching the group of altocumulus clouds that had been traveling across the sky since the morning. This image captures a large portion of the sky and was taken at a good distance from the clouds.

The image was taken from the scenic overlook along US highway 36 just before you get into Boulder. It was approximately 10:30 AM on April 9th. I was facing due south for the picture and the camera was pointing around 30 degrees from the horizontal.

The clouds in my image are altocumulus clouds. Altocumulus clouds are very soft, “fluffy” clouds. The sun was out and very bright that day. There is a nice blue gradient in the sky for my picture due to the easterly location of the sun and the modification of the curves in Photoshop to make the dark blue even darker and the light blue lighter. The weather was that of an average Colorado spring day. The temperature was 66 degrees F and there was no precipitation that day or any of the days surrounding it. There was a slight breeze at around 5 MPH [1]. The atmosphere was completely stable that day with a CAPE of 0 per the Skew-T plot (see submitted sounding plot). I used both the 00Z and the 12Z plot since my photo was taken near the middle of both times. My best estimation for the height of my clouds is around 3-4 miles high. This is typically where altostratus clouds reside. Altostratus clouds are a stable set of clouds and are found quite frequently.

The field of view for my picture is quite large. Its width may be a couple of miles and its height around a half mile. The image is many miles away from the camera, possibly 50-100 if I had to make a guess. The focal length was 3.85 mm. The exposure time and ISO are the same for every picture on an iPhone 4 and are 1/10000 s and 80, respectively. In Photoshop I cropped the image to get rid of the top and bottom of the image and only used the middle where the clouds resided. I also changed the curves to match the full spectrum of colors in the photograph.

I really like the unique clouds in this image. One thing I find very fascinating about clouds is that they are unique every single day. I do wish I could have taken this picture on a better camera to clear up a few things, but I really like how this image produced a very soft picture for the clouds. They almost look cartoon like to me. One thing I wish I had done would have been to take images of the clouds at different times or use a time lapse to see how the clouds changed and moved throughout the day.

1. <http://www.wunderground.com/history/airport/KEIK/2012/4/9/DailyHistory.html>

Photo Data:

Pixels HxW 1936x2592

Exposure 1/10000 s

Focal Length 3.85

ISO 80

Angle from horizontal 30.92 degrees