

# The Photography of Clouds

## CLOUD IMAGE #1

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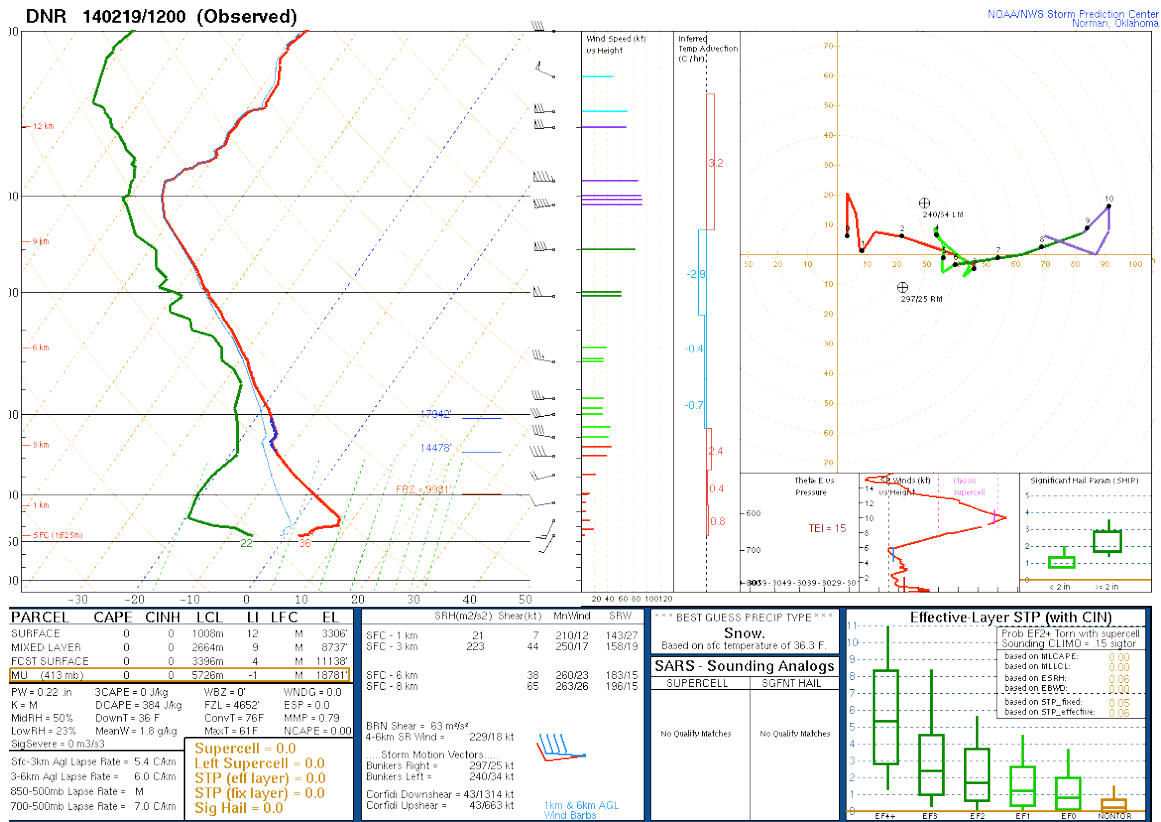
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For my first cloud image assignment we were asked to photographically capture clouds. I wanted to create a cloud image that had simplicity to it; I did not want a lot going on in the frame of the image nor the shape of the cloud. I wanted to make a simple, well-centered, humble image. This was accomplished by finding a unique cloud that was separated from the other clouds and had a lot of blue surrounding it. On this day in particular it was easy to find this because this was one of the only clouds out and about at this time.

The cloud image was taken on February 19<sup>th</sup> 2014 at 11:17 AM in Boulder, Colorado, on top of a small grassy mound at the Scott Carpenter Playground. I was facing directly east and the wind was fairly strong ranging from 10 to 15 mph coming from the left side of the frame and moving towards the right (north winds). The temperature was around 55 degrees F, and the cloud seemed to be around one to two miles high. This information indicates that this cloud is a Stratocumulus Lenticularis. Although Stratocumulus Lenticularis clouds usually form in bigger groupings, lines, or waves. The defined shaping of the cloud, the somewhat low elevation, and the mountainous vicinity of this clouds location imply that it still fits this cloud type. This cloud was most likely part of a larger grouping of clouds earlier, though the strong winds that were occurring at this time separated it.

Some information collected from the Skew T is that the atmosphere was stable at this time of day because the temperature curve contour closely follows the dry adiabatic line at 4000 meters, the estimated elevation of the cloud.



To capture this image I used a Canon 5D Mark 2. My image is 3000 pixels high and 4000 pixels wide. I used a 50mm prime lens with an exposure of 1/200<sup>th</sup> seconds, the f-stop was f/11, and the ISO was at 100. I wanted the ISO as low as possible because it was a really bright day and if I raised it any higher it would start to generate some unwanted noise. I did not apply editing effects towards this image; this is the raw shot I captured.

If I was to retake this image I would of used a wide-angle lens because I wanted as much blue space as possible. Though with only a 50 mm it was hard to find a small enough cloud that would not touch the edges of the frame. Also, if I could retake this image I would of like to try to shoot with a film camera and use black and white film. I feel like that would have really emphasized contrast of the sky compared to the cloud, and highlighted the shaping of the cloud more.

Works Cited:

<http://www.downunderchase.com/storminfo/stormguide/guide07.html>

<http://www.theweatherprediction.com/thermo/interpret/>