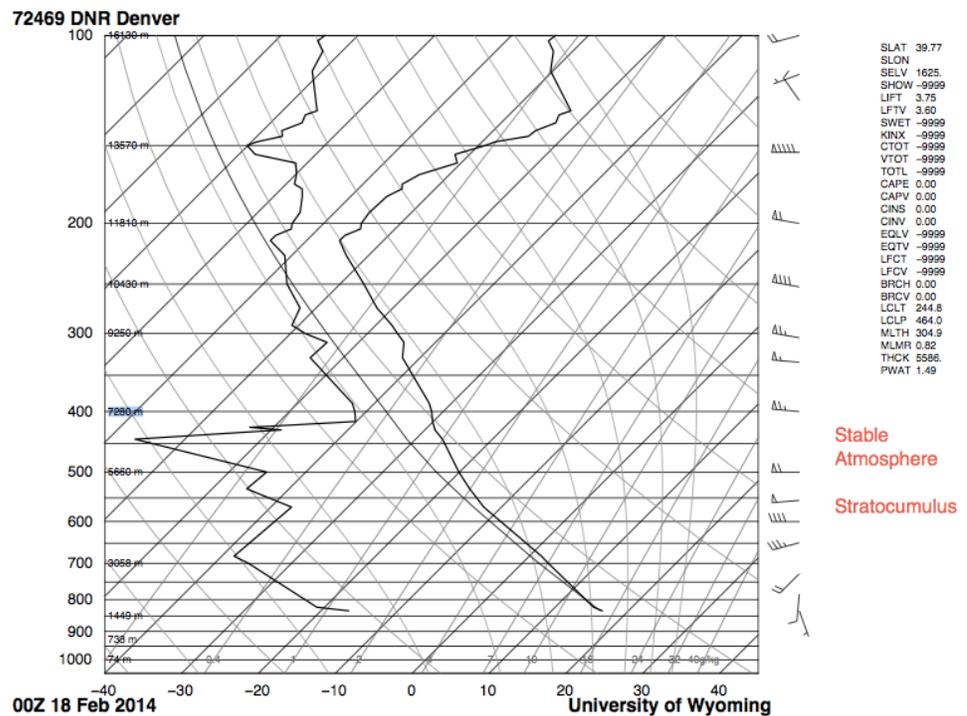


Lael Siler
 Cloud #1
 February 25, 2014

This was the first cloud assignment, and I decided to grab my camera and capture the sky Monday afternoon. There were beautiful stratocumulus clouds scattered in the sky above campus, and the sunset light was perfect for illuminating the clouds and blue sky.



This shot was taken at a ~45° angle from Farrand Field in Boulder, CO at 5:11 MST on February 17, 2014. I was standing at an elevation of 5280 ft above sea level facing North.



According to this Skew-T graph, there was a stable atmosphere during the time I captured my shot. The previous day was very cold and windy but the evening I took my photo is was calm weather with a light breeze and around 45 °F. My clouds were probable caused by a cold winds drifting over the mountains and then lifting the condensation upwards creating standing wave clouds. There were two layers of clouds in my image. The highest layer was a cirrocumulus undulates judging by the size of the layered edges and were most likely 30,000 ft above the camera. The thin ripples are perpendicular to the mountains and are probably caused by gravity waves. Below are three altocumulus fractus clouds which are separated. These clouds were most likely 20,000 ft above the camera. The camera was tilted at roughly a 45° angle.

The field of view of the camera is about 5,000 ft with the clouds at a distance between 20,000 and 30,000 ft away from the lens. The camera used was a Canon EOS 5D Mark II with a Canon EF 24-105mm f/4L IS lens. When the picture was captured, the focal length of the lens was 32mm, an aperture of f/8, shutter speed 1/125, and an ISO 100. The original image size is 5616 x 3744 (21.0 MP) and was desaturated for a black and white effect. Original attached below.



I was very surprised when I looked back at my camera roll and discovered this photo, I immediately saw two faces, one in the center of the image and one on the right, resembling an older man with his left eye, nose, and chin visible. On the top center was a ghost figure which was very haunting. I think this photo captures good fluid physics with the two layers of clouds visible. It fulfilled my intent of capturing a photo of a cloud and I plan to take more cloud photos in the future.