

Cloud First – Galen Melchert

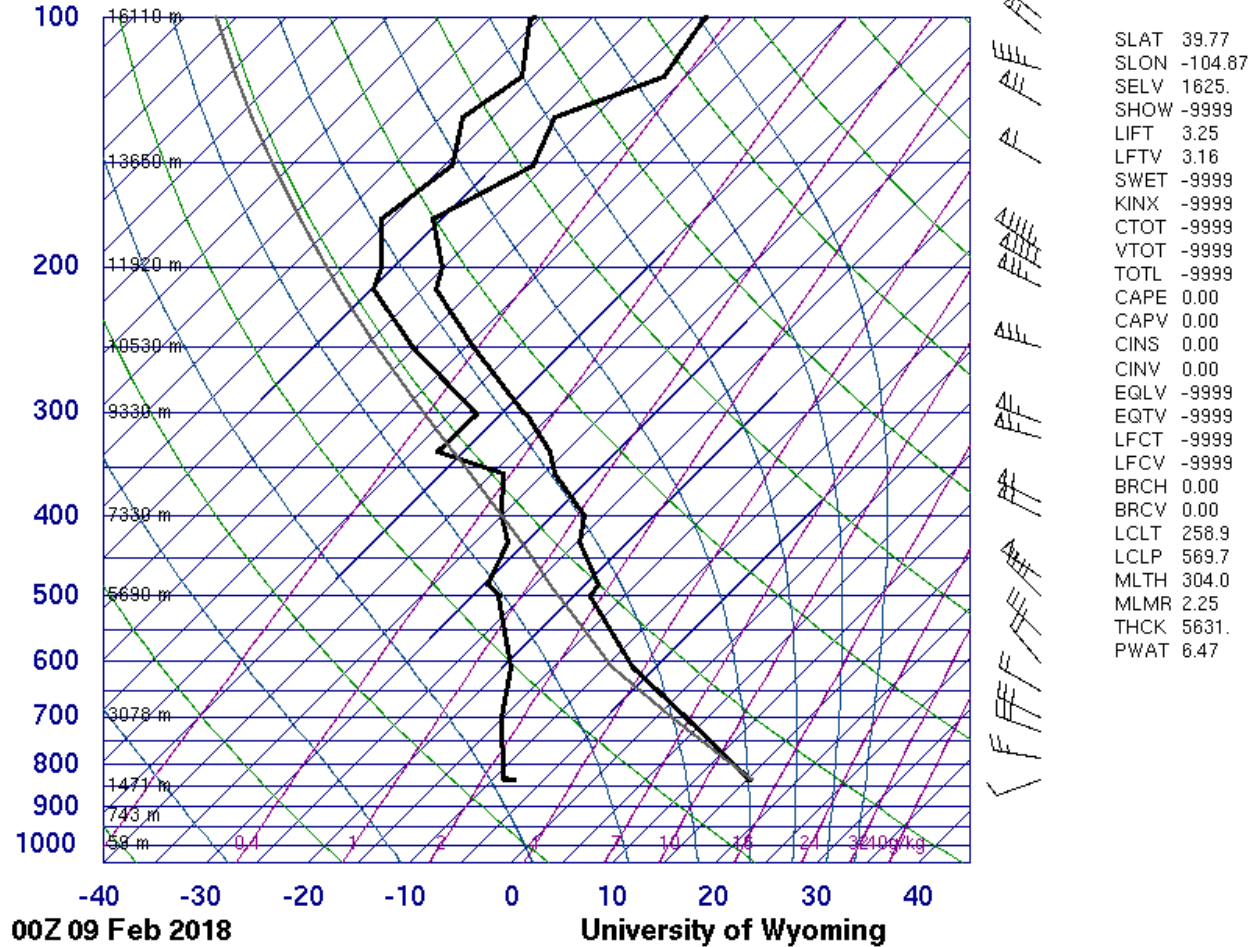


For the first cloud assignment I chose the image above. There was a lone cloud still illuminated by the sunset that was framed right above the engineering center at CU Boulder. This building has been the center of my education for the last five years and the cloud played nicely with it. The relationship seemed relevant to both the assignment and the culmination of my education. It was a personal moment that I decided to share because others may have a similar connection.

The image was taken at 5:30 in the evening on February 8th. It is looking NNE at the CU Boulder Engineering Center. As seen in the picture the angle of capture is roughly five degrees and still captures the horizon in the field view.

The subject cloud is an example of an altocumulus lenticularis. This cloud is the result of mountain waves and high winds, and is stationary. Roughly eight hours after this picture was taken a cold front came in. That being said the skewT taken at this time shows a CAPE of 0 indicating a stable atmosphere. This cloud is formed in the troposphere and is roughly 4 miles above ground.

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Unfortunately I only had my phone on me when I saw this cloud. While it is one of the best phone cameras on the market, the small sensor and resulting high iso made for a grainy image. I used the wide angle lens on my Samsung galaxy note 8, and the field of view is approximately 300 ft. The engineering center is about 200 feet away from my vantage point. The original image was 12 megapixels (4032x3024) and the final cropped image was 3373x2534. Shutter speed was 1/10 of a second, aperture was fixed at f1.7 and iso was 1000. The image was captured in jpeg format which limited post production. I used lightroom to modify the contrast, color, noise and image crop. I changed the color of the engineering center to a greener shade and straightened it such that the verticals of the building were truly vertical.

I love the scene that I captured. It was a personal moment that spoke to me and my time at CU. I also really enjoy the altocumulus lenticularis cloud type. Unfortunately I only had my phone camera to work with and this is the one disappointing part of the image. Besides the camera used I wouldn't change anything.