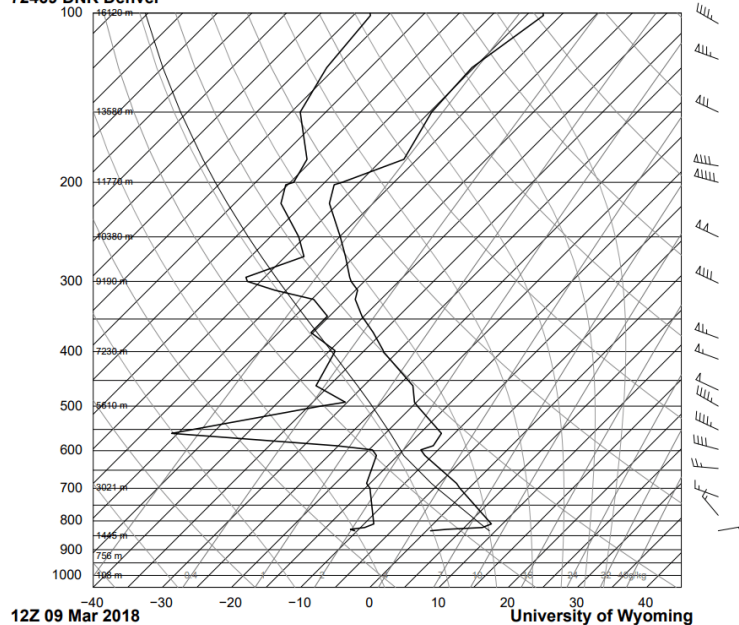


I was inspired to take this photo while outside climbing with some friends of mine. It was a decently short, steep hike from Highway 6 in Golden, Colorado. Besides having an assignment I knew I could turn this in for, I was wanting to get a good photo of my friends that I went on the climbing trip with. You are able to see one of my friends, Conrad, in the top left corner of the image climbing the wall. My other buddy, Garrett, is belaying him in the bottom left corner of the picture. I was standing there admiring the city of Denver, in the background, and thought the clouds had a real nice feel that matched the day I was having. It was more of admiration of the city, outdoors, and a perfect cluster of clouds in the distance. The fluff that Cumulus clouds formations have, with the bright blue sky, allows for the white in the clouds to really stand out.

As I mentioned, this was right outside of Golden, Colorado. If you are driving by Coors Brewery, it is directly across the highway and up a little bit of a hike. It is called the Quarry Wall, and has plenty of different views and climbs. It is roughly a thousand feet elevation change from the city of Golden to the top of the wall where we were climbing at. This made it appear as if we were level with the clouds that were about 7.5 miles away between there and downtown Denver. This allowed for a picture to be taken at roughly 0 degrees difference on the horizon. This was facing due east at 3 o'clock on March 9th.

The clouds captured in this photo are Cumulus. It was a beautiful sunny day up till around 6 in the afternoon. This was part of a storm system moving east away from the mountains, but they were in Golden earlier in the morning. Even though it looks perfectly calm and stable throughout the sky, facing the mountains was a different feel. There was a storm

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moving in that was bringing through precipitation. It probably was not cold enough to snow once the storm hit the plains, but they were snowing higher up in the mountains. There was a light wind that did not seem to cause much trouble surprisingly. Back to the clouds in the image, they were probably about 6000 feet in the air. It was a stable atmosphere where the clouds were at during the time of the picture.

Looking at the Skew-T diagram you can see cumulus clouds were expected in the Denver area.

The camera used to capture this picture was actually my friend Conrad's. He had a Nikon D7500 digital camera. He had a special lens that was used for this particular photo. The type of lens it was is something that has slipped my mind, however it did make a powerful difference. The distance to the clouds is near 7.5 miles. This allows for large field of view. The two tops of the canyons are only separated by 2 miles. However if you look deep into the distance the horizon gets much broader. The height of the picture is roughly a mile high. The iso was set using the auto feature. It was taking multiple picture at 8 frames per second, but this is the shot I favored. It has a 20.9 megapixel quality which made these pictures stand out to me. This photo below is the original picture before edits. I cropped out some



of the edges to bring the focus more onto the clouds and away from the climbers and cliffs. However, I still like the effect of an outdoors adventure feel the wall gives. Brightness was increased to give a louder feel along with the sharpness to make it look crisper.

Overall, I am happy with how this image came out in the end. One thing I did wish I would have edited more is the tilt of the photo. As you can see the horizon is increasing from middle to right, and I did not catch this until it was too late. Although it does make the walls more vertical instead of them leaning over. Besides that one issue, I believe it shows a well-rounded picture. There is enough aesthetics to draws you into checking out the photo, but then the colors of the sky and clouds keep you looking at it. To take this image in a further direction, I would like to have gotten the whole horizon that I could see instead of just facing east. It could have been from the mountains behind me, all the around to the horizon in Denver. The final picture is on the next page, so you can compare the original to the edited version below.

