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Cloud First

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MCEN 4151-001



Cloud First:

Altocumulus Clouds

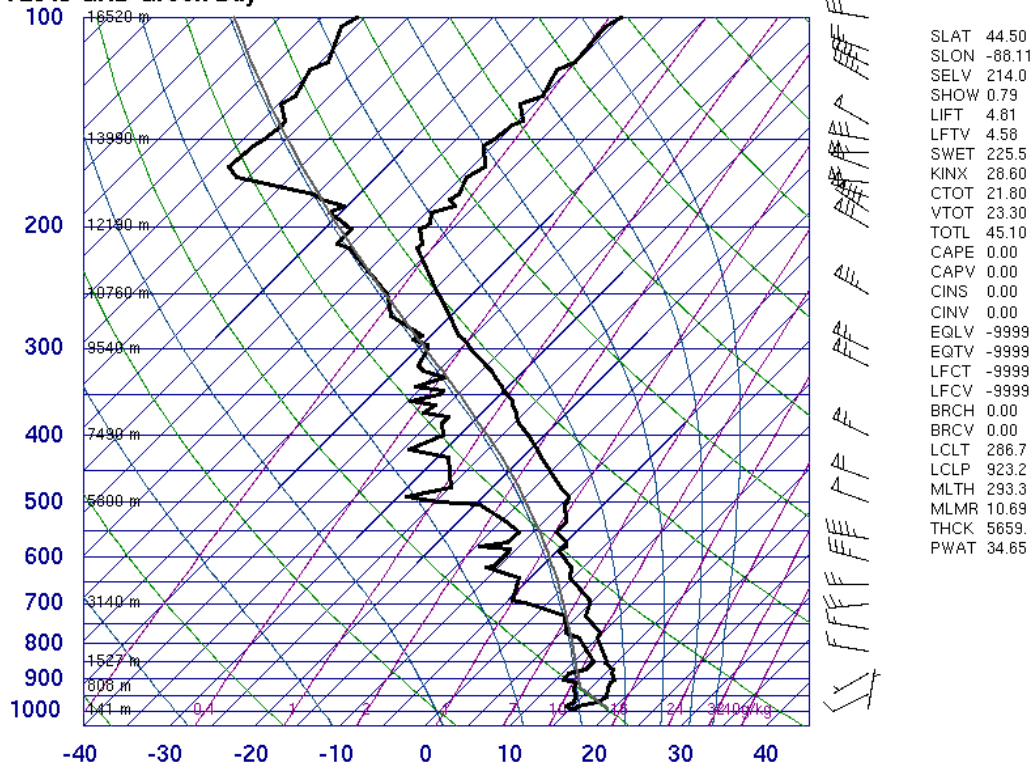
September 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm Green Bay, Wisconsin

The purpose of this is to get our feet wet with taking cloud photos. This image was taken with the intent to capture a scene of endless clouds across the sky. I was trying to capture what I believe are altocumulus clouds.

This photo was taken on an airplane as soon as the plane had barely reached the top of the clouds. The location was right after taking off from the airport in Green Bay Wisconsin around 6:00 pm on September 29<sup>th</sup>. The angle from the horizontal was completely parallel with the clouds.

The clouds seem to be altocumulus clouds just by judging from the shape. Not only that but most altocumulus usually float around 20,000 feet in the air, where airplanes usually fly a bit over that around 30,000. The weather on that day was calm and the winds seem to be stable which is another trait for these clouds. The skew-t plot diagram for that day and time is shown below.

### 72645 GRB Green Bay



From the skew-t diagram we can see that there could be clouds forming around 5000-6000 meters. This translates to around the 20,000 feet that was mentioned in the previous paragraph which is exactly where the plane should've crossed before reaching its highest altitude. All the data points towards the conclusion that the clouds taken in the photo were indeed altocumulus clouds forming.

There were not many photographic techniques involved as the photo was taken on my Samsung Galaxy S8. The distance from the cloud themselves were close, maybe a couple hundred feet below as I took the photo as soon as the plane cleared the cloud. The standard settings for the camera was an ISO of 50, shot at 1/1250 sec, and an f/1.7. The resolution of the image was 4032x2268 post cropping it. I decided to keep the wing of the airplane in the image as it gives a perspective of exactly where the viewer is. When the wing is not present, the image is very difficult to grasp exactly where the photo was taken. The post edited image had colors, brightness, and the contrast increased as I wanted to showcase the beauty of the clouds more.

The image reveals that clouds when looking from a perspective above, rather than when we normally see them from below, showcases a sense of outer world feel. My question is exactly how large this cloud that I have photograph is. To develop this photo more, I could shoot it with an actual DSLR in order to get a crisper image.