CLOUDS SECOND REPORT

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Clouds Second
Section 1
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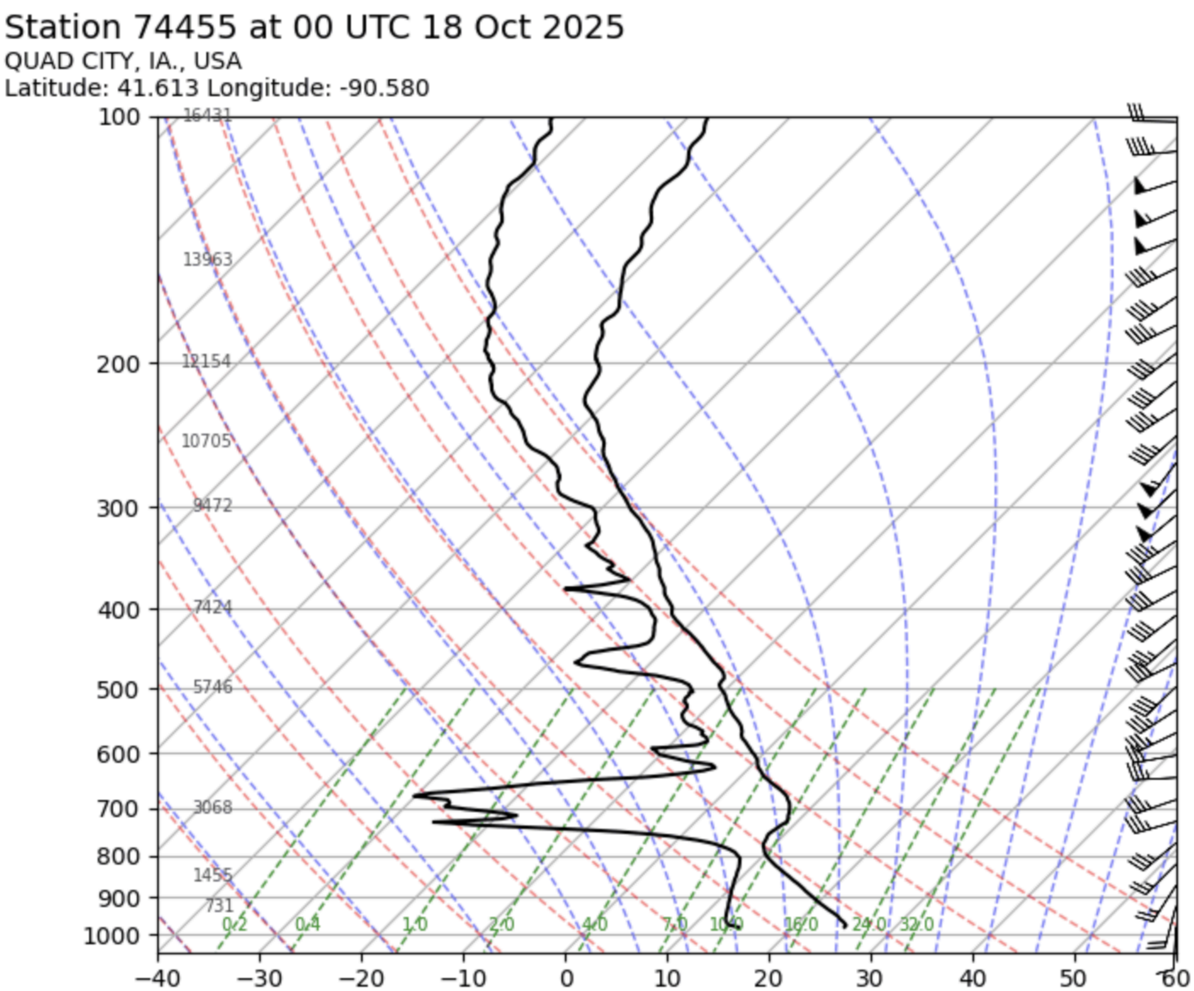
Altocumulus and Status clouds hanging over a sunset just north of Madison, Wisconsin. Photo is a still from the original video posted on FlowVis.org

For my second clouds assignment I decided to use a video I took on October 18th which captured a sunset in Madison Wisconsin, and specifically the altocumulus and stratus clouds that lit up the sky. After hiking through a trail on a backpacking trip, just before we would make camp, the trail opened up to a field and a magnificent view of a sunset. The color and the surrounding sloping hills were amazing, so I had to take a video.

I was facing west/southwest in this image, looking exactly towards the sunset, given the sweeping angle of the video. The camera is level, keeping an angle with the horizon, splitting the video 50/50 from ground to sky. The sun was setting in front of me, it was already around 6:00 pm, October 18th.

The clouds in the photo appear to be a mixture of altocumulus and stratus clouds, altocumulus clouds can be seen in the still above, however the stratus clouds appear about halfway in the video. The sky was clear earlier that day, and clouds only began to form as the afternoon began to end. The weather remained constant throughout the day, low winds, and low humidity. No fronts or changes in weather happened after the image either, it didn't rain or become overcast, to the best of my knowledge as it was then night. Based on the Skew - T diagram below, I believe the atmosphere was stable at the time of the picture, which makes sense for the hanging stratus clouds in the video.



Skew T diagram taken on October 18th, 2025, from Quad City, Iowa station, the closest weather station to where I was.

For technical specifications, the video was taken with my Iphone. My Iphone used its 4k video recording camera to take this video, the pixel resolution was 2160 x 3840 pixels. The built in lens used was 24 mm, an f-stop of 1.78, and the video was taken in 60 fps. The only real post processing that occurred was that I slowed down the video, in order to let the video run longer and allow for the grandiose of the view to get taken in more effectively. There was a small concern with motion blur in doing this, but after speculation and peer review the concern went away.

In conclusion, I believe that the video turned out really well. If there was one advice I would take if I were to capture this video again, is to angle the camera slightly up, that way to capture more of the clouds. Currently the video stands with the horizon at the center line of the camera, but if it was slightly lower, following the thirds rule possibly, It would have resulted in a more unique shot.