

Clouds 2

At 6:15 pm I shot the 29 photos that were used to create the panorama. The final photo has a horizontal field of view of 159 degrees (vertical f.o.v. is 46 degrees). My Nikon D50 was set to an f-number of 4.2 with a focal length of 48 mm. Two rows of vertical photos were shot in order to expose the clouds properly as well as the tall grass. The clouds were exposed for $1/8^{\text{th}}$ of a second while the grass photos were exposed for 1.6 – 2.0 seconds. A 79.5 megapixel panorama is the stunning result.

Skew-T results show a stable air system in the atmosphere. At 4,979 meters the adiabatic line crosses the dew point line. This would indicate that the row of clouds began at that height. The adiabatic line crosses back across the dew point line around 5,710 meters. Wind was coming out of the West-Northwest, which pushed air up over the Rocky Mountains. The air became cooler and denser than its neighbors at the top of the mountains. As the air went past the mountains, it descended back down due to the stable atmosphere. Each time the air is cool enough at the top, the clouds form in rows and are subsequently pushed East by the wind; allowing for the next row of clouds to form. These clouds appear to be Stratocumulus opacus clouds; they are low to middle water clouds.