

Tim Jarrell
Cloud Report #2
April 15th, 2009

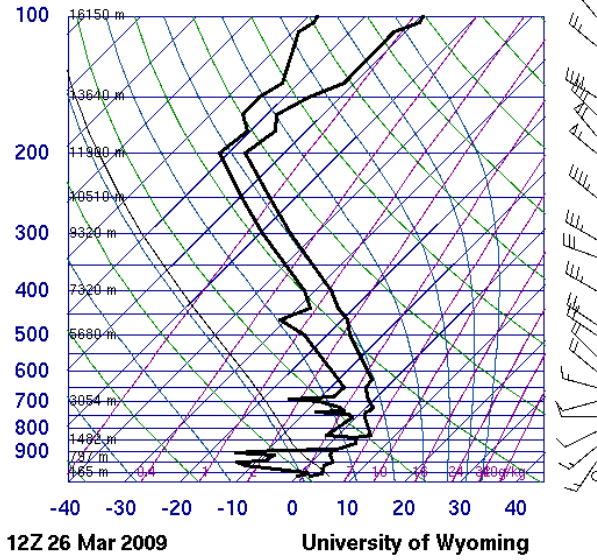


This is the second cloud image, taken in New York City on March 26th. My intention was to capture a cloud from eye level and partially look through the cloud. I wanted to capture a cloud covered building top from ground level, but the cloud cover wasn't thick and low enough to satisfy that idea.

The image was taken around 10:30 am local time at the Empire State Building Observation deck. The height of the image is approximately 1050 ft above ground level. I took the image looking south towards the financial district of Manhattan. The angle from the horizontal was zero.

The clouds in the image are stratus clouds that have an almost uniform gray covering of the entire sky. From the ground level it looked like a uniform layer of gray, but was clear up to the base of the clouds. From the observation deck one can see that the base of the clouds is just at around 1000 ft agl. The atmospheric conditions were mixed on the day, with both stable and unstable areas. On the skew-T plot you can see that there are many cloud forming areas at low altitudes, which correspond to the actual observation of the clouds. These clouds form when a cold air front moves at a low altitude and is essentially above ground fog.

72501 OKX Upton



SLAT	40.86
SLON	-72.86
SELV	20.00
SHOW	8.17
LIFT	23.93
LFTV	24.07
SWET	90.61
KINX	14.50
CTOT	19.70
VTOT	19.70
TOTL	39.40
CAPE	0.00
CAPV	0.00
CINS	0.00
CINV	0.00
EQLV	-9999
EGTV	-9999
LFCT	-9999
LFCV	-9999
BRCH	0.00
BRCV	0.00
LCLT	267.1
LCLP	877.1
MLTH	277.3
MLMR	2.96
THCK	5515
PWAT	17.96

The field of view is very large, approximately 3 miles in width and about 4 miles in length to objects in distance. The focal length was 6.3mm with aperture of 4.6 and exposure of 1/198 sec. The image was taken by a Nikon Coolpix S210 and has a image size of 3264 x 2448 pixels. The manipulations I did to my image was to decrease the lightness and make the clouds pop a little more.

The image reveals that in a uniform gray covering there are actually different layers and pieces to the cloud. I like the eye level perspective of the clouds and the urban environment, but I do wish that the clouds had been a little more interesting. I think the physics are shown very well in the image since it shows a relatively low altitude cloud sitting over a city on a cold day. If I were to improve this image I would wait for a summer day in which you could capture storm clouds over the city. However, since I am unlikely to visit NY again for a while I will not be able to develop this idea any further.