

Jade Jauquet
Flow Vis: Clouds 2
April 18th, 2010



The picture I took for my second Cloud photo was taken on the 31st of March. I was at the top of Table Mesa road, looking south from the NCAR visitor center. The time of the photo was 6 o'clock. The sky was full of interesting clouds that day, allowing the sun to pierce through them and make some really cool beams of light. On ground level the wind was rather calm, but that air was chilly.

At first glance the cloud looks like the head of a cumulus cloud, with its flat bottom and soft puffy top. However, the skew-t test for this day shows a cape of 0.000 (figure 1), meaning that the atmosphere was stable and the cloud top wouldn't be growing. This means that the clouds formed that day were most likely formed as a result of the mountains pushing air up into the higher colder layers of the sky, known as a mountain wave cloud. The skew-t test also shows high winds at the height of the cloud. This shows that the puffy top of the cloud could actually be turbulence within the cloud itself.

