

Clouds 1

Author: Nathan Lester

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This is the first of two cloud assignment photographs. The intent of this image was to capture an interesting and beautiful image of clouds. To this end, most attempts of photographing clouds occurred at sunrise and sunset in order to capture the unique colors only visible at those times. The final image shows the unique colors of 31 January 2009 shortly after sunset.

The final image was photographed at the corner of 38th ave. and Baseline rd. in Boulder, CO. Facing South-Southwest, the picture was taken shortly after sunset at 1737 MST. The camera was elevated no more than 20 degrees above the horizon for this photograph. Because the angle above the horizon is so shallow, there are trees in the bottom of the image which serve to both frame the image and also give some size perspective.

Figure 1 below is the Skew-T plot for 1 February 2009 0000Z.

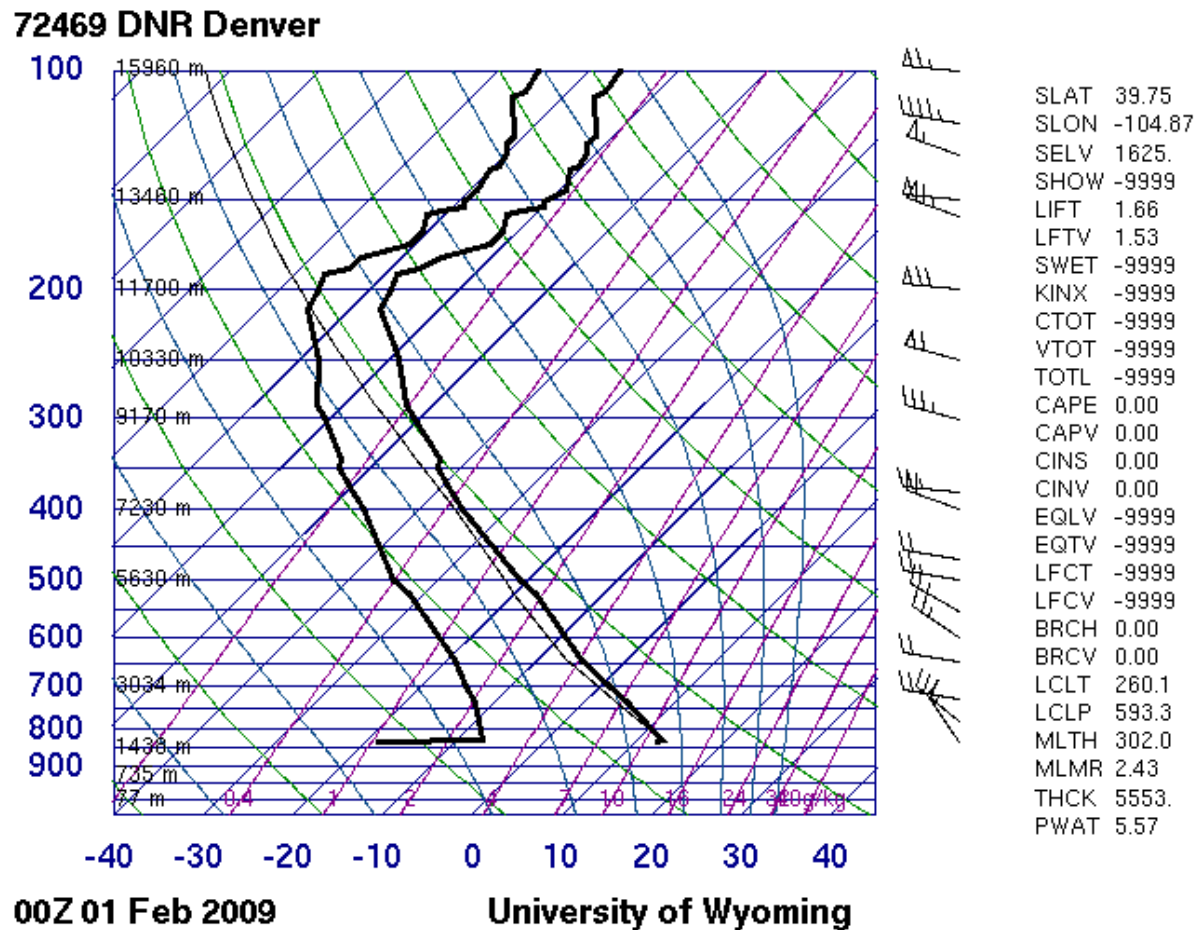


Figure 1: Skew-T Plot for Denver, 1 FEB 2009 0000Z

From Figure 1, it can be seen that the atmosphere is moderately stable. The winds aloft are out of the west from 20 to 70 knots depending on altitude. This provides an excellent environment for shear layer vortices. These vortices are evident in many of the other cloud formations in the sky on this particular evening, however, they are difficult to spot in this submitted image. The clouds in this photograph are at an elevation of approximately 5000 m above sea-level. The clouds in this image are Stratocumulus. This can be confirmed by the moderately stable atmosphere.

This photo was captured using a Cannon Digital Rebel XT with at 28-200mm lens. The focal length was 48mm. The F-stop value was 5.6 as was the aperture. The shutter speed was 1/100 sec and the ISO was set to 400. The post processing of this image involved using the 'curves' tool in Photoshop to adjust the contrast. The healing brush tool was also used quite extensively to remove the power-lines from the cropped image. The dimensions of the final image are 2970 x 2304 pixels.

What I really enjoy about this image are the colors. The transition from the dark purple to pink to orange move the viewers eyes across the picture. In the original image I really disliked the power-lines running through the bottom of the clouds in the picture. If I had had more time before taking the picture I would have moved so that the power-lines were not in my field of view. That being said, I do not believe that there is much else that I would change. The picture is a great representation of the Stratocumulus clouds at sunset.