

READING THE CLOUDS

By Richard Sorokin

There are four main cloud formations, Classified by the International Meteorological Committee.

CIRRUS: Feathery and white, being the highest cloud formation of all. Usually called "Mare's Tails" and indicating a changing or rising wind.

CUMULUS: Great banks of cotton. They usually indicate fine weather, but when congregated into a gloomy bank they presage a thunderstorm.

NIMBUS: These are rain clouds, more often than not, accompanied by combination such as cirrostratus or by a few cumuli.

STRATUS: A long low lying bank of clouds.

One of the best known combinations is the cirrus cumulus, called a "Mercury Sky". This often means a change in weather.