

Two Photos

Jonathan Sladko

Artist's Statement

In the summer of 2025 I had the opportunity to take ATSC 320, a two-week intensive storm chasing experience class. I learned how to forecast thunderstorms and tornados, and how to safely approach them, maintain my distance, and take photographs.

"Mammatus" was taken in Texas, looking at the underside of a thunderstorm anvil. Supercooled pockets of moist air sink through the anvil of the supercell, creating a bubbly look. The term 'mammatus' comes from the mammalian mammary glands, because of the resemblance some people attribute to the cloud formation.

"Supercell over Rolla, ND" was taken near Rugby, looking northwest at a supercell building up over Rolla. The cumulonimbus clouds can be seen clearly bubbling up into an anvil, the mushroom cloud shape that supercells take on as they mature.

Mammatus



Supercell over Rolla, ND



Jonathan Sladko is a writer, photographer, pilot, and storm chaser. Originally from Alaska, he has spent the last five years at UND studying English literature, aviation, and atmospheric science.