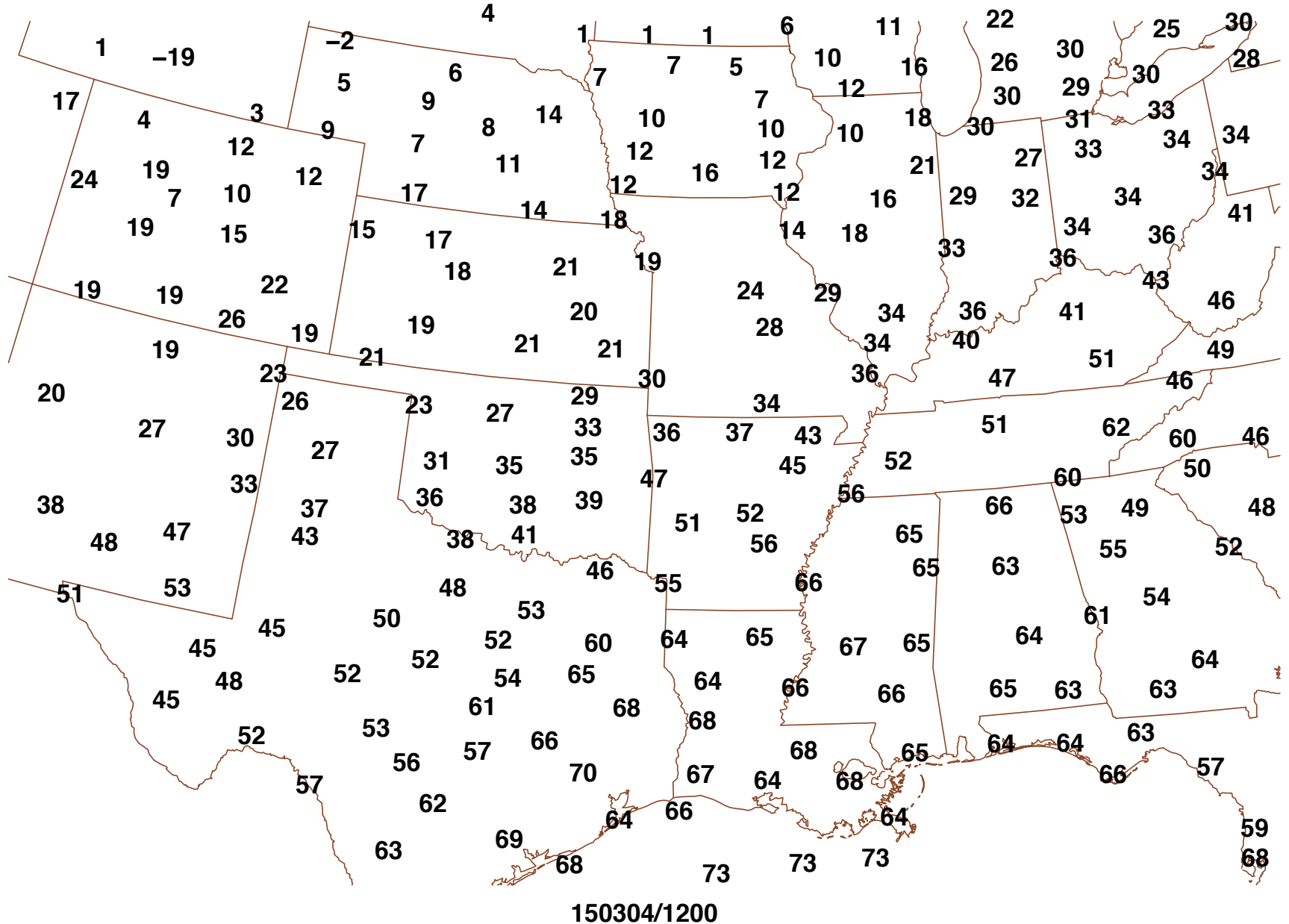
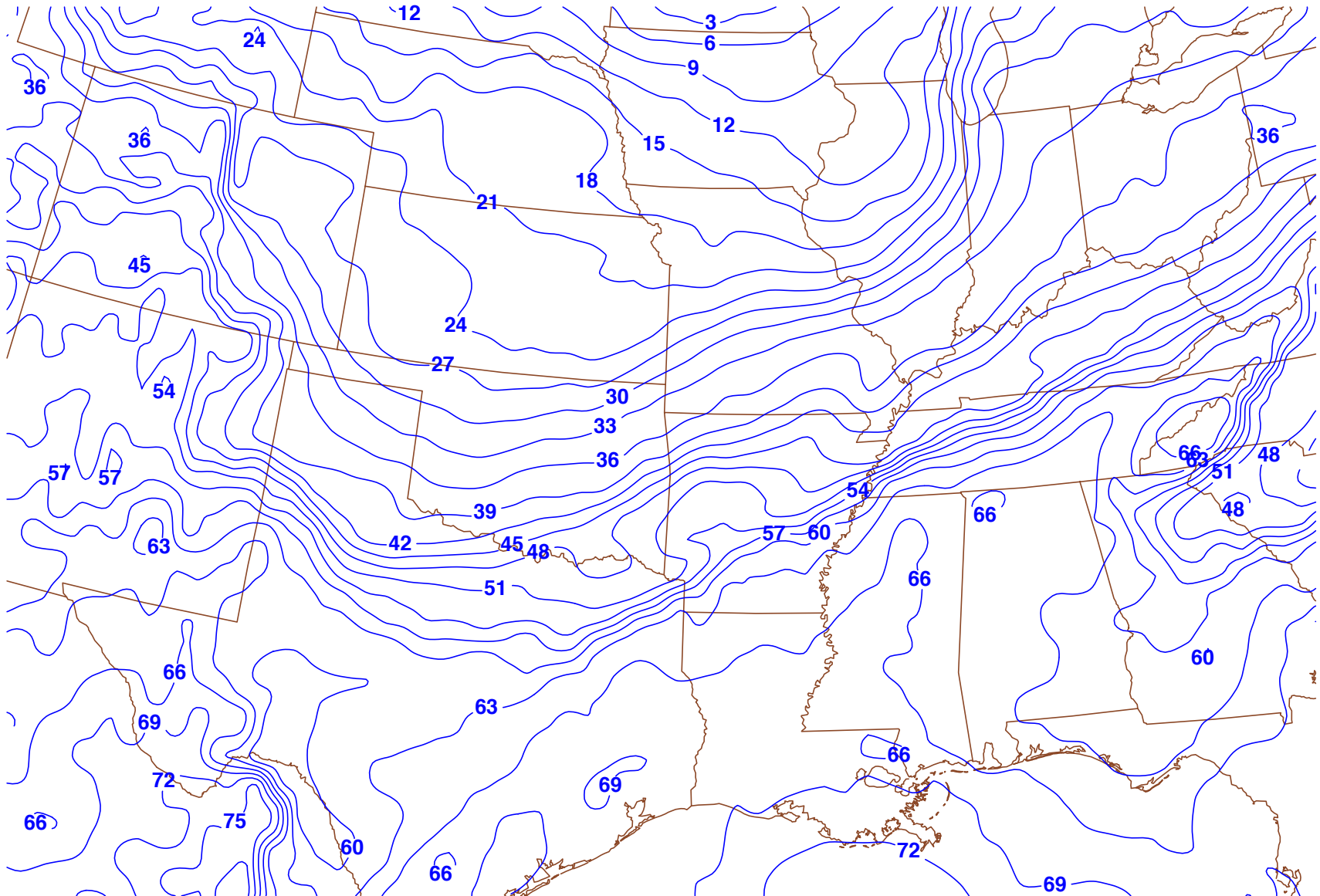


Contour Analysis

Why do we contour data on a map?



Why do we contour data on a map?



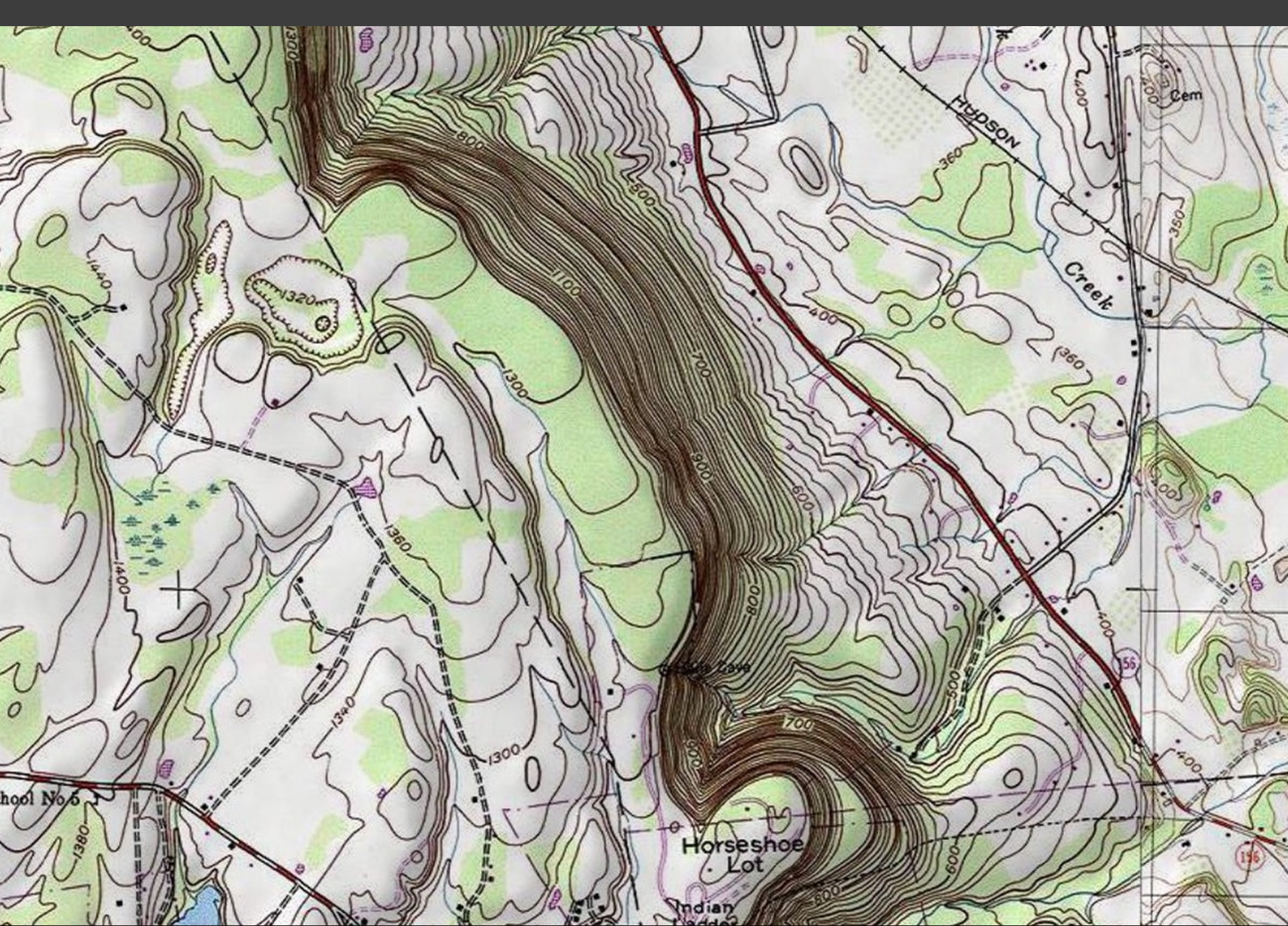
150304/1200F000

Why do we contour data on a map?

- Easy to identify:
 - Important features in the datasets
 - Minima and maxima
 - Regions where the data changes rapidly...or not so rapidly
- Gradient*

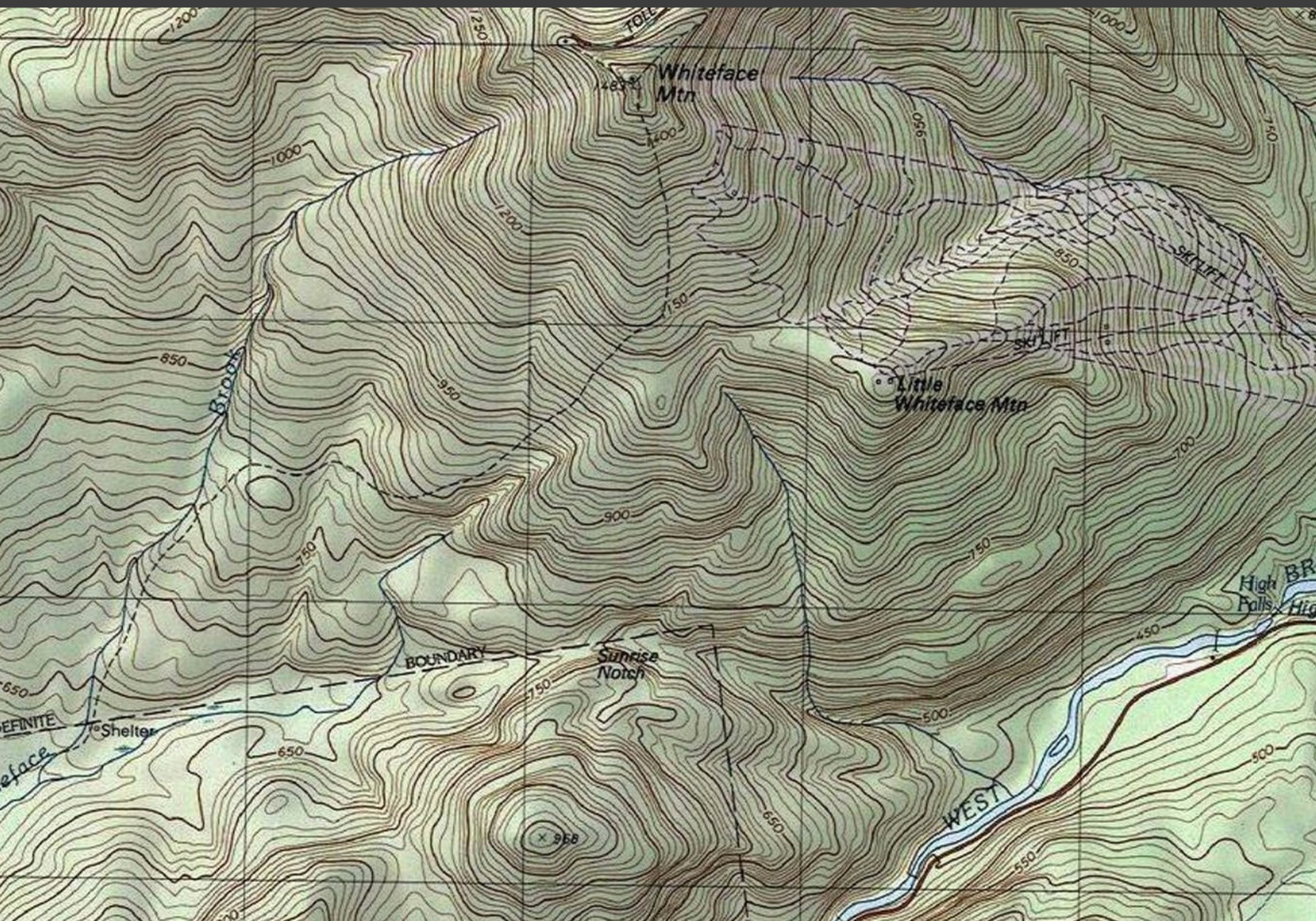


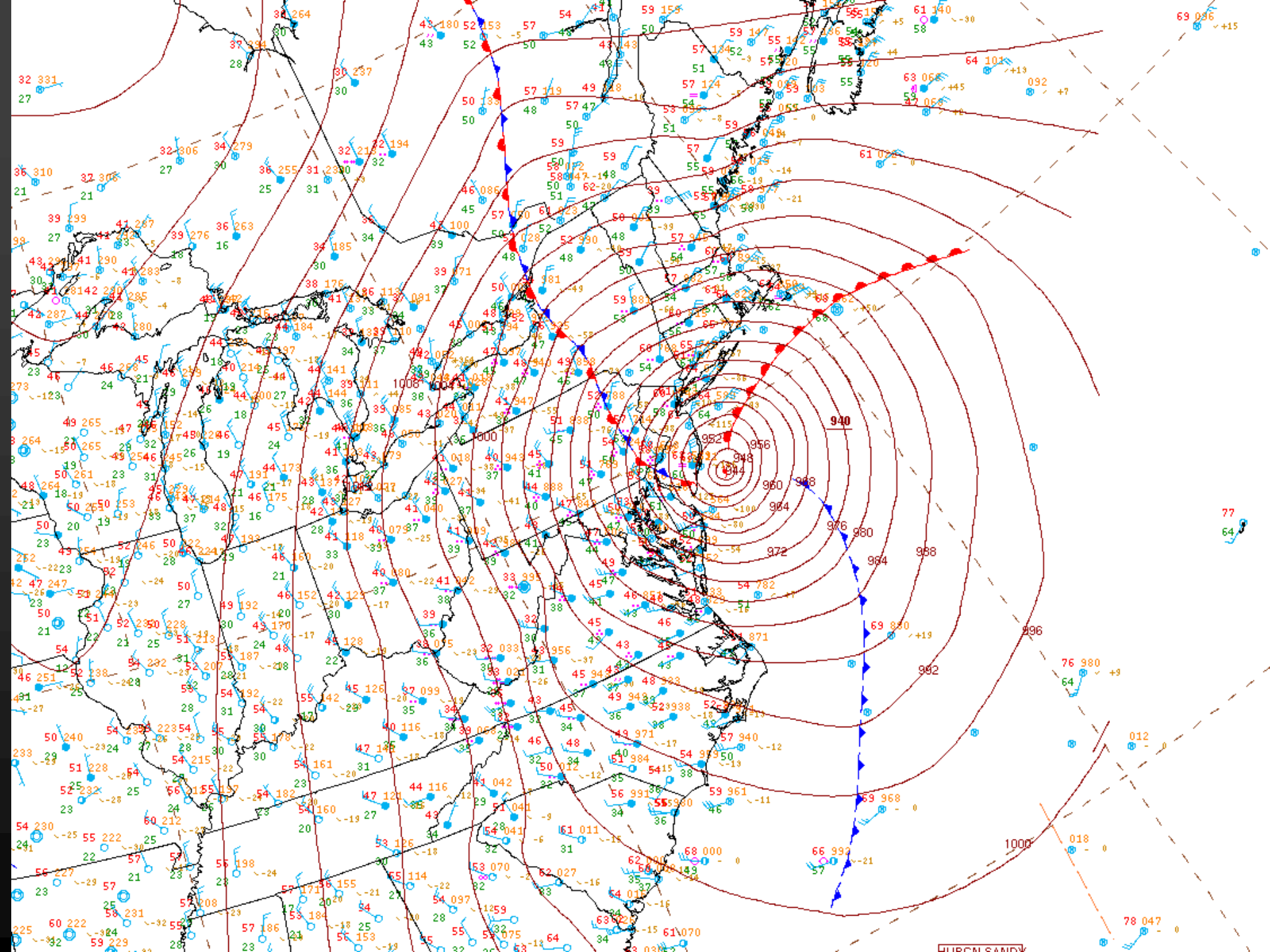
Photo by hbickel / Flickr



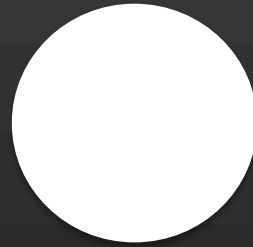


<http://images.summitpost.org/original/472861.jpg>

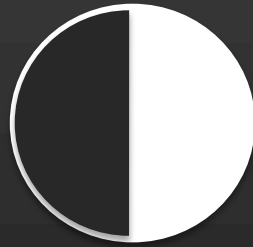




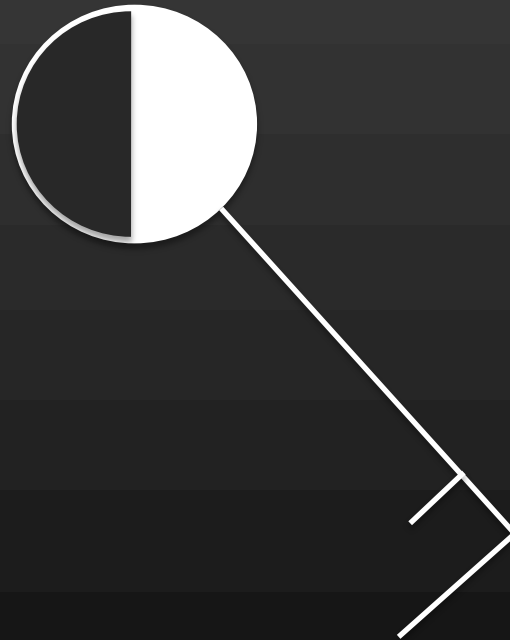
Surface weather station model review...



Surface weather station model review...

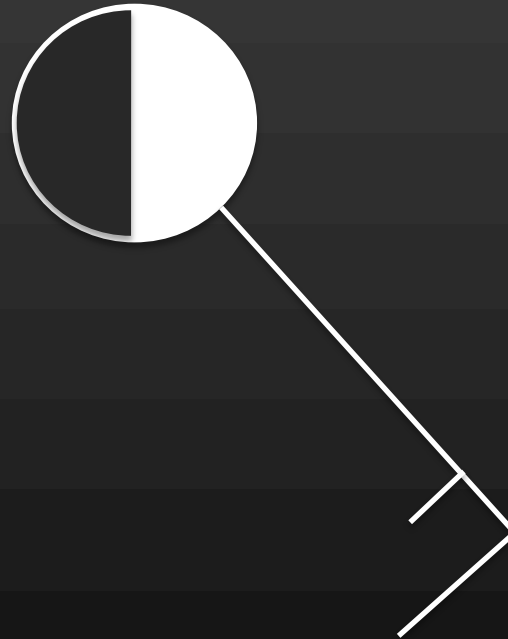


Surface weather station model review...



Surface weather station model review...

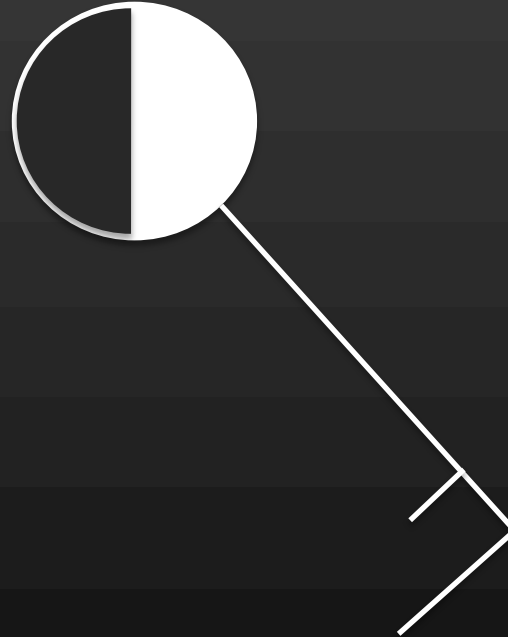
95



Surface weather station model review...

95

56

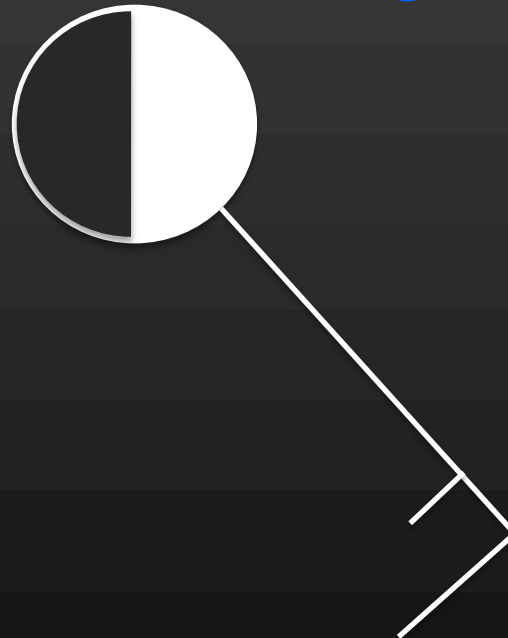


Surface weather station model review...

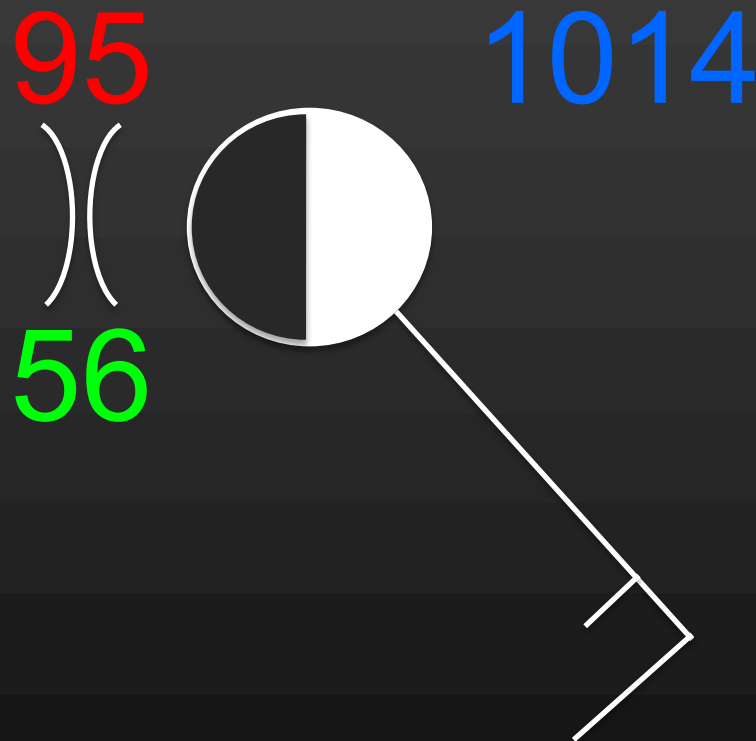
95

1014

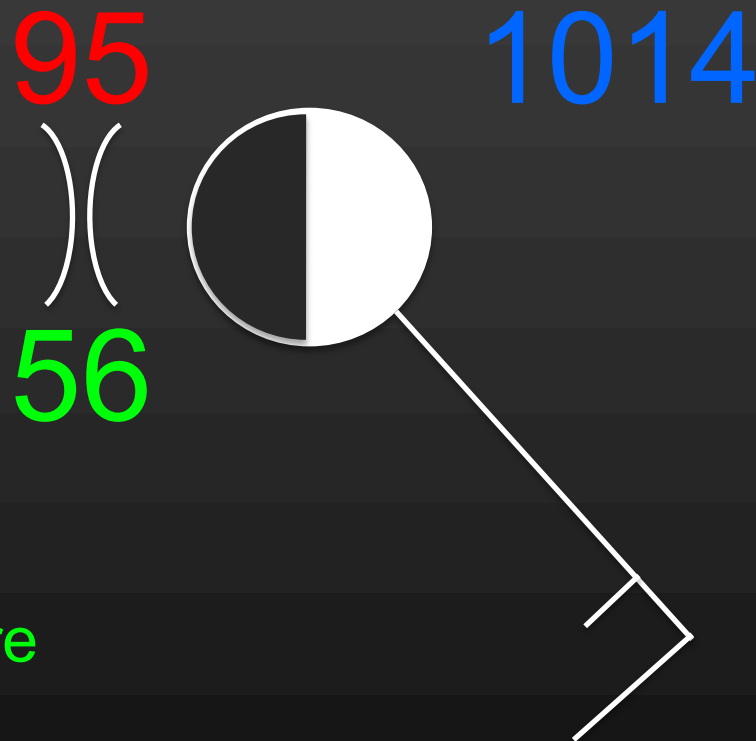
56



Surface weather station model review...



Surface weather station model review...



Temperature

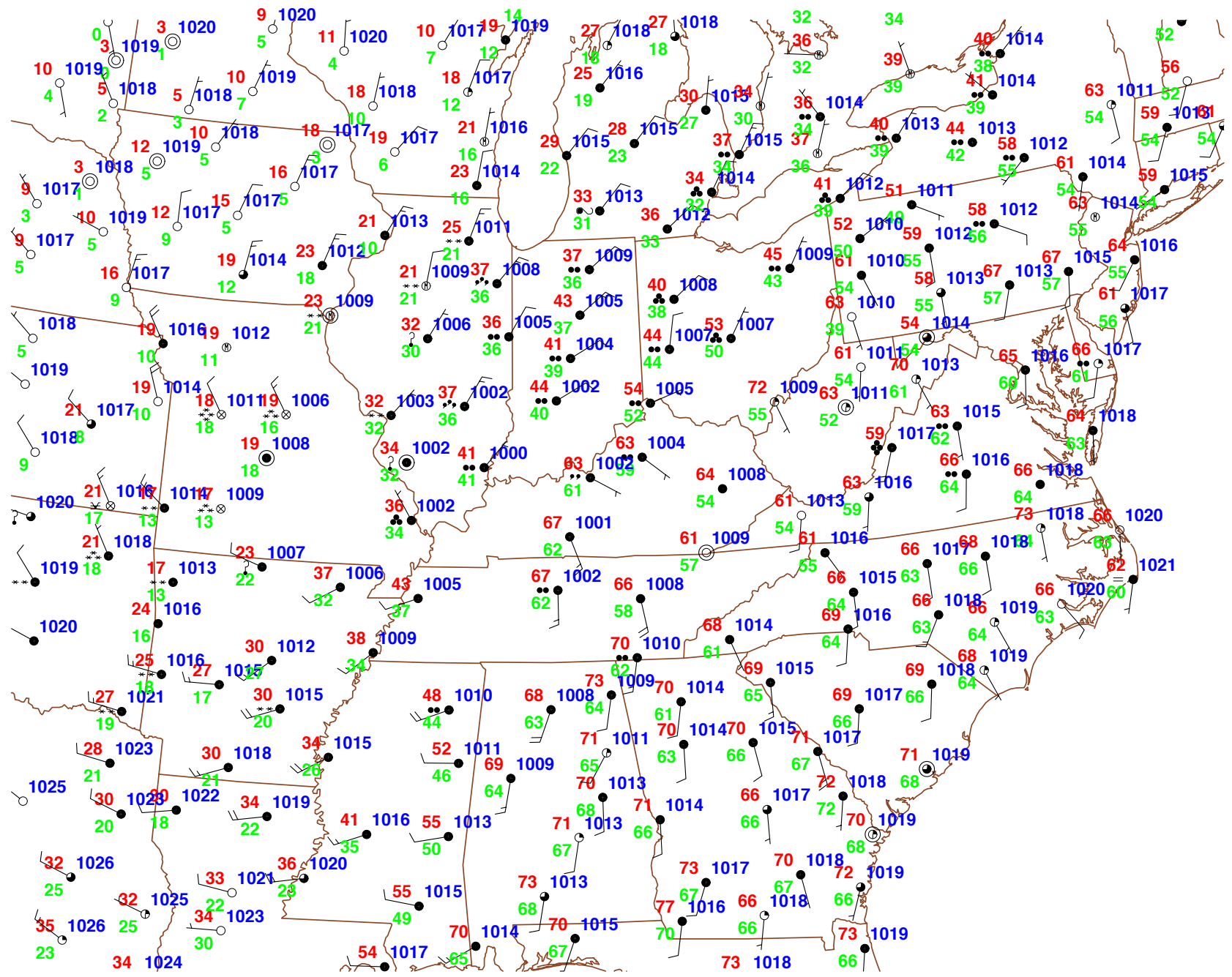
Dew point temperature

Sea level pressure

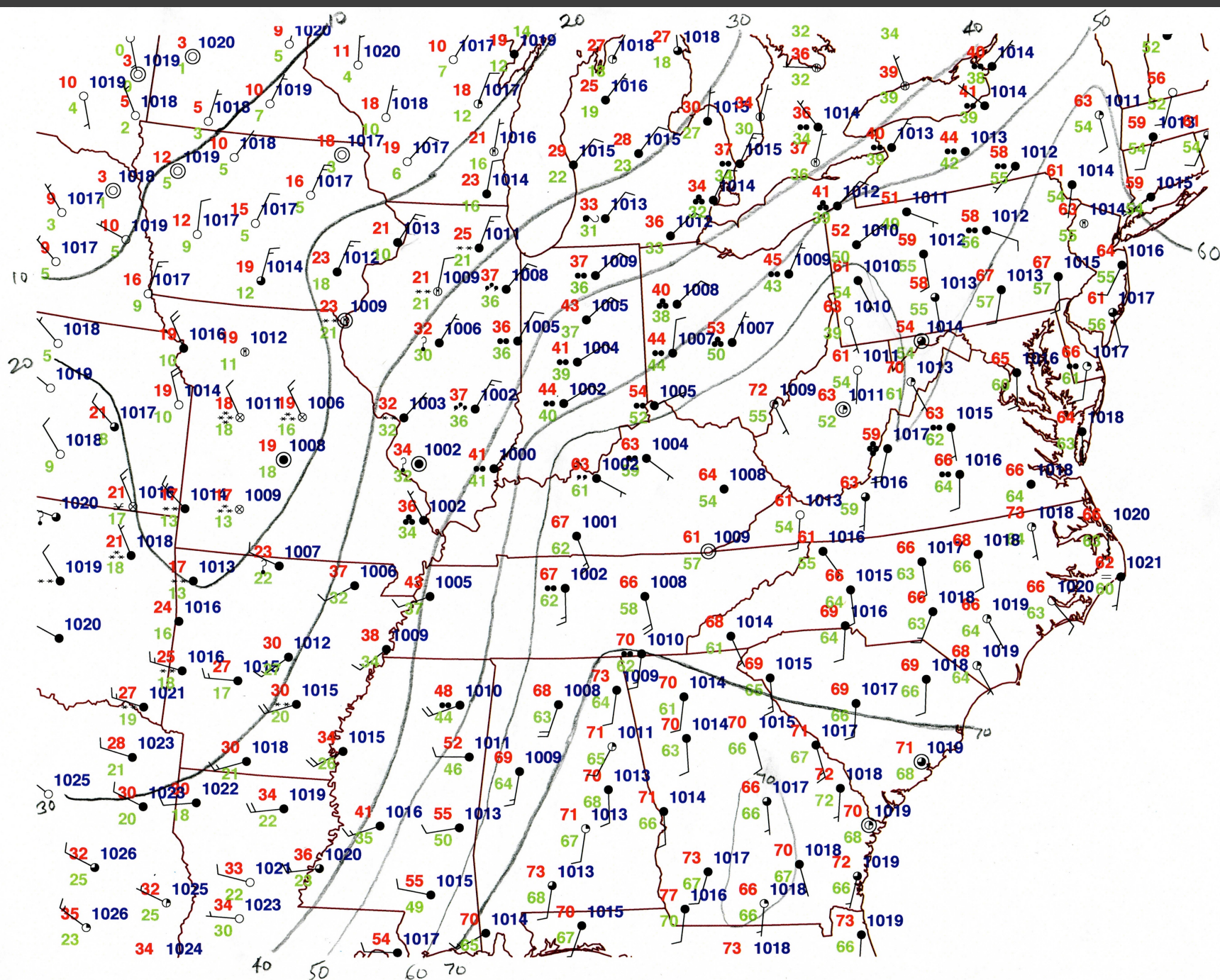
Present weather

Contouring rules and tips

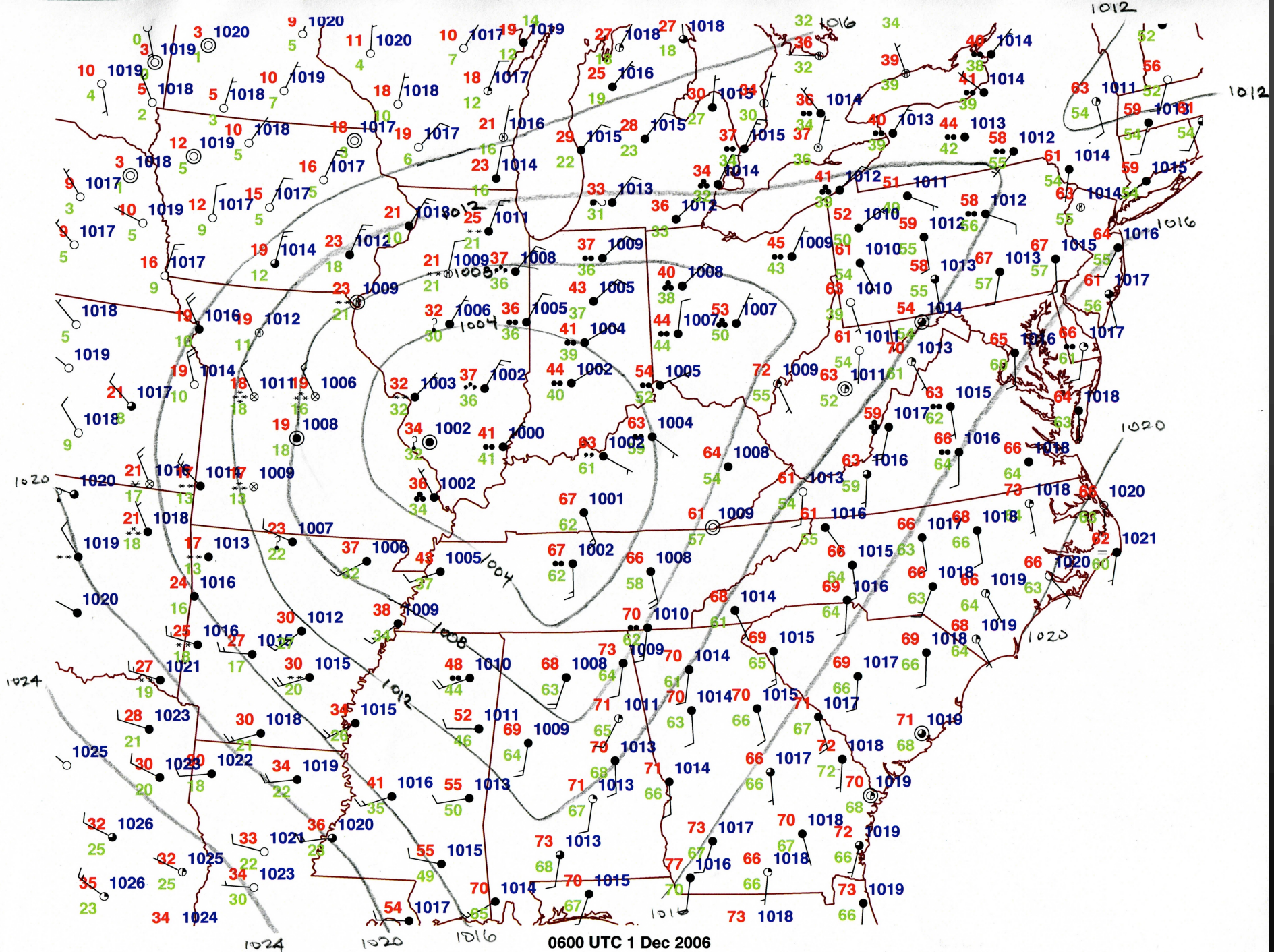
- 1) Contours should be as smooth and even as possible while still representing the data accurately.
- 2) Try to smooth out any unnecessary “wiggles” in your analysis.
- 3) Always do at least one rough draft, because in the end, you’ll want to make each contour with one, smooth movement.
- 4) Contours never cross one another.
- 5) Contours never branch, or fork.
- 6) Always label your contours at each edge of the map. Or, if your contours are concentric (closed), draw a label in the middle of the contour:
Example: ——20——
- 7) The data can have errors! Try not to go out of your way for one single data point ... especially if it doesn’t seem to “fit in” with the rest of the data.
- 8) Don’t contour where there are no observations. For instance, don’t draw long contours connecting points across a large body of water where there are no observations.
- 9) Contour in multiples of the interval (in most cases): Example: For temperature every 10°F: 20, 30, 40, 50...not 25, 35, 45, 55.

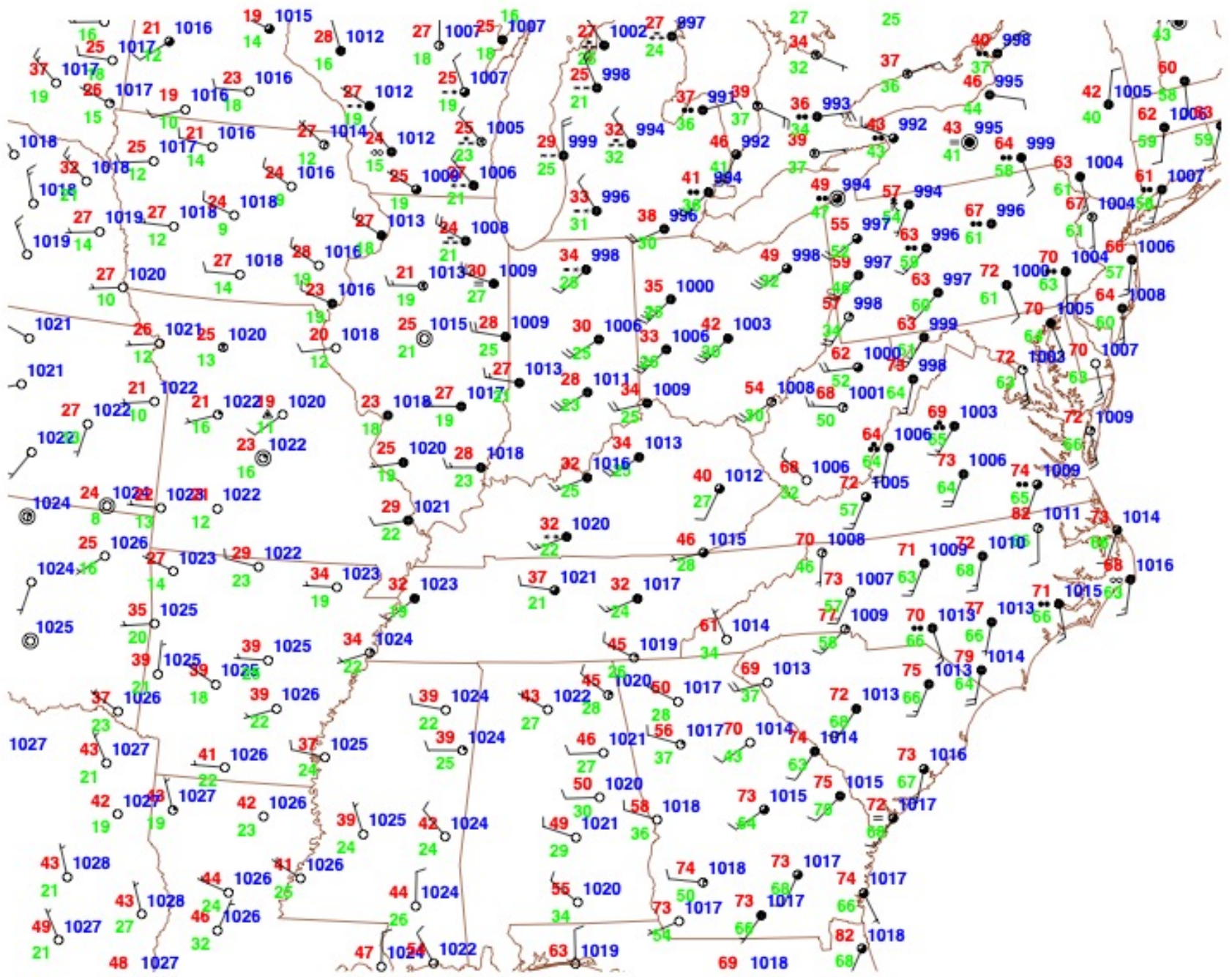


0600 UTC 1 Dec 2006

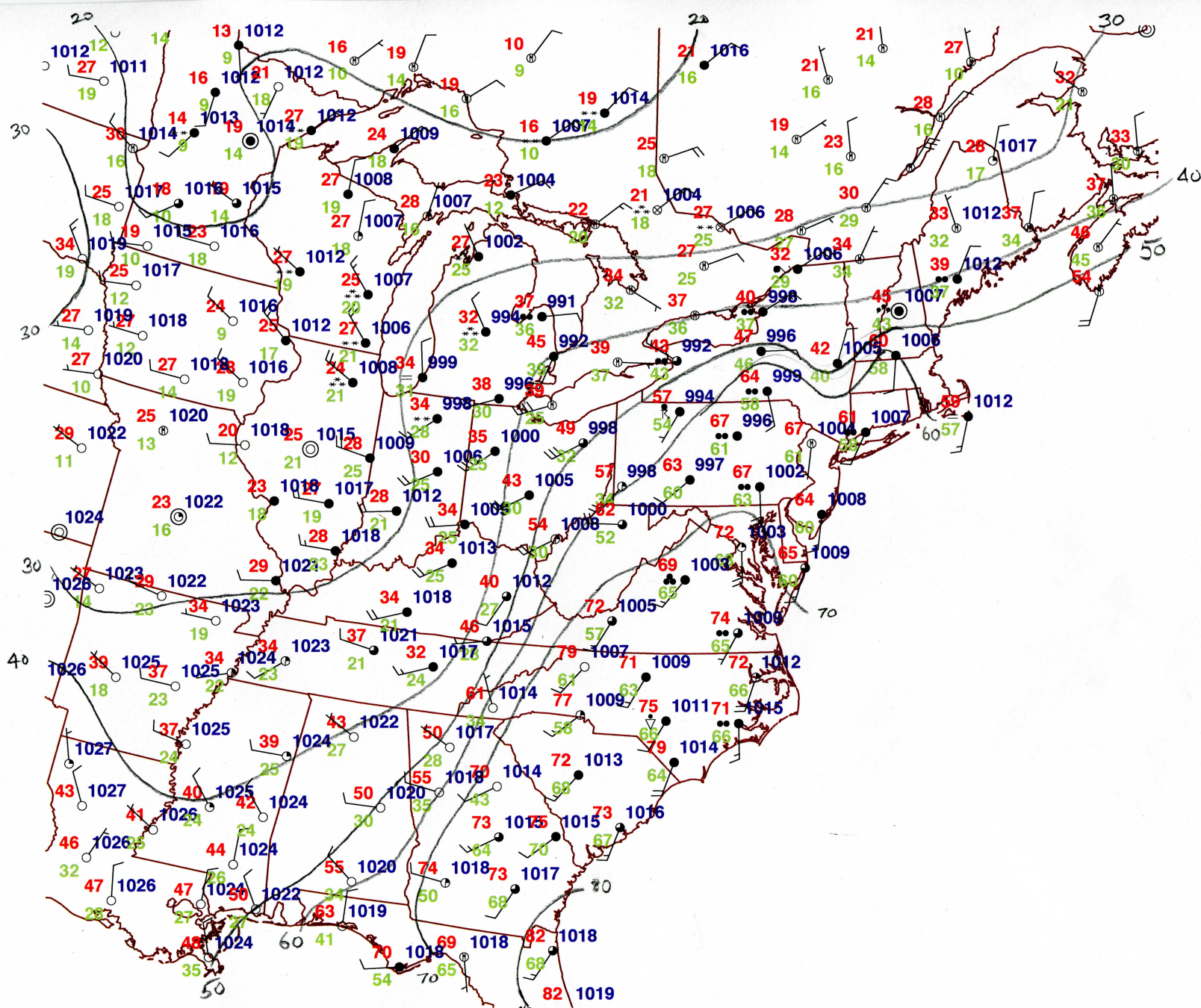


0600 UTC 1 DEC 2006





1800 UTC 1 Dec 2006



1800 UTC 1 Dec 2006

