

Minutes January 8, 1993 Lightning Data Center

1. Meeting began at 11:30 am; adjourned 1:30 pm.
2. Members present: Boyson, Breed, Cherington, S. Clark, Collier, Heitkamp, Lammertse, Langford, Larson, Mathys, Simmons, Wright, Yarnell.
3. Ms. Karla Mathys of St. Anthony Hospital was introduced as our newest member.
4. We discussed the manuscript of our data on the "under-reporting of lightning injuries" which has been guided by Raul Lopez and Ron Holle. All those present who reviewed the recent draft of the paper believe it is ready for publication. After that has been accomplished, we shall prepare a summary article for the medical literature.
5. All present engaged in a discussion of how we could participate in the triggered lightning experiments to be held this summer in Alabama. This subject was first discussed at an earlier meeting when Rich Collier introduced the idea. Dan Lammertse, Phil Yarnell, and I indicated that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to design live animal experiments at this time. Ken Langford suggested that we might study the protective value of a portable bag made of non-conductive material. Much discussion followed. I suggested that among the materials studied we could look at existing weather and rain gear. One of our patients suffered burns and injuries on the parts of the body not protected by his raincoat. Warren Simmons thought we could also look at gear worn by golfers. The group discussed what kind of mannequin would be appropriate. Ken Lammertse suggested that animal cadavers obtained from animal shelters might be used. Ron Larson mentioned that if we could not meet the summer deadline, we still might be able to participate in other triggered lightning experiments held elsewhere such as in Massachusetts. Rich Collier will speak with his colleagues involved in the Alabama experiment about any material help they might give us. We agreed to form a subcommittee to continue to pursue these ideas. The members are: Cherington, Collier, Lammertse, Langford, Larson, Simmons.
6. Dan Breed gave a excellent presentation on the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR). He spoke on the subject of atmospheric electricity and current methods used in studying the subject.
7. The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 12, 1993 at 11:30 am at St. Anthony Hospital Conference Room B on the first floor.

Respectfully submitted,



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Chairman, Lightning Data Center