

Minutes March 12, 1993 Meeting of Lightning Data Center, SAC.

1. Quote of the month:

"Lightning represents the failure of a cloud's capacitance."
Kenn Amdahl

2. Meeting commenced at 11:30 am at SAC Conference Room B and adjourned at 1:30 pm.
3. Members present: D Breed, M Cherington, D Clark, S Clark, D Gould, L Isaac, D Lammertse, K Langford, R Larson, W Simmons, P Yarnell.
4. Steve Clark brought us up to date on his efforts to obtain a "Quick Response Grant" to help with his proposed plan to be able to visit each site of lightning strikes associated with injuries in the metro Denver area this summer. He plans to arrive at the scene to assess the damage, speak with witnesses, and photograph evidence of lightning damage to trees, property, etc. Ken Langford may be able to assist him during some of these times. Hopefully, he will be able to recruit the help of an assistant(s) to monitor police radio scans during the spring and summer months. He will also contact metro area hospitals before the lightning season to apprise them of this project. The physicians on the committee will help in contacting doctors who are providing care for any lightning victims with the hope of gathering clinical data. Steve is working with Joe Zalkind in the efforts to obtain a grant.
5. Phil Yarnell and I will speak with Dr. Jodi Chambers, Chief of the Trauma Service about the feasibility of developing a clinical service at St. Anthony Hospital for the treatment of victims of electrical and lightning injuries.
6. Warren Simmons informed us that CEO of the Lightning Protection International, Ltd. is planning to move to Boulder, Colorado. We all agreed to extend an invitation to him at that time to speak to our group and become a member. Warren will also look into the possibility that Golf Organizations may have information on the relationship of where serious injuries to people occur and the site of lightning strikes on golf courses.

Warren informed us that The U.S. Open Golf Tournament will take place in Denver during the time of our July 9 meeting. He thought he might invite Mr. Lee Trevino to come to our meeting. I suggested that we plan a dinner meeting for that occasion. Everyone agreed that we proceed to make plans for that event.
7. Phil Yarnell introduced the subject of Galvani's classic experiments in the 18th Century whereby he demonstrated that frog muscles would twitch if a conducting wire was attached to their spinal cords just prior to thunderstorms. The panel engaged in a lively discussion about the feasibility of performing a 20th Century experiment utilizing the triggered lightning technology. Dan Breed mentioned that Kennedy Space Center scientists and those in New Mexico are involved in

triggered lightning experiments. Ron Larson mentioned that KOA radio tower near the Palmer Ridge is a frequent site of lightning events.

8. Ken Langford passed out a written technical proposal for the "LDC Lightning Safety Bag". He also distributed a brochure from The Forest Service that he had received from Ron Holle. This brochure describes a portable "fire shelter" used by fire-fighters. It reportedly saves lives by reflecting radiant heat. Hopefully Ken and Dr. Kelly of University of Colorado School of Medicine can discuss these matters before our next meeting. Jim Kelly has long been interested in helmet safety and told me he would join us in these "Safety Garment" proposals.
9. Raul Lopez and Ron Holle have submitted the manuscript on "The Underreporting of Lightning..." to the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society. They have also submitted an abstract to the 23rd Conference on Broadcast Meteorology in Charleston, South Carolina (June 29-July 1).
Our best wishes to our Oklahoma members.
11. Ken Langford and Phil Yarnell suggested that we develop an official logo for the Lightning Data Center. Bring any ideas to our next meeting.
12. I informed the panel the our fellow member and friend, Charlie Wright is recuperating from heart disorder. We all send our best wishes to Charlie for a continued and quick recovery. I shall send him a packet containing the brochures, letters, etc. that were passed out during the meeting.
11. Our next meeting is scheduled for Friday April 9, 1993 at 11:30 in Conference Room B on wing 1 East, St. Anthony Central Hospital.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Cherington, M.D.
Chairman, Lightning Data Center