

Minutes March 11, 1994 Lightning Data Center St. Anthony

Quote of the Month:

"Blandings Castle basked in the afterglow of a golden summer evening. Only a memory now was the storm which... had raged with such violence... It had passed, leaving behind it peace and bird-song and a sunset of pink and green and orange and opal and amethyst."

P.G. Wodehouse in *Summer Lightning*

1. Meeting began at 11:30 am and adjourned at 12:45 pm.
2. Members present: Bergschneider, Boyson, Breed, Cherington, D. Clark, S. Clark, Collier, Fischer, Keen, Langford, Larson, Ravilochan, Yarnell.
3. New members were introduced. Richard L. Fischer, Physical Scientist with Mine Safety and Health Administration. Richard A. Keen, Author of five books on weather including: *Skywatch*, *Skywatch East*. K. Ravilochan, M.D., Neurologist and associate of Dr. Yarnell.
4. Dick Fischer remarked that his work includes investigating lightning induced explosions of which there are about two per year. He recalled a major explosion at Gross Reservoir construction site in which 9 people were killed. This happened about 40 years ago. He will bring copies of the newspaper coverage of that "Day the sky turned black" to our next meeting.
5. I distributed two documents: a) application forms sent to me from the Lightning Strike & Electric Shock Victims International. The organization has non-victim members and victim members. b) monographs sent to me from Ron Holle. The monograph was recently published and is entitled: *Deaths, Injuries, and Property Damage due to Lightning in Colorado from 1950 to 1991 Based on Storm Data -- NOAA Technical Memorandum ERL NSSL-103, January 1994, authored by Raul E. Lopez, Ronald L. Holle, and Todd A. Heitkamp.*

I also reported that Susan Knight will soon submit her data on outpatient hospital visits by lightning victims. She has found about 15 patients for the defined time period. When we have the data we shall send copies to Raul Lopez and Ron Holle.

6. Michael Boyson submitted data from the Colorado Hospital Association for the first 9 months of 1993. During that time period there were 7 cases of lightning inpatients. This is the smallest number of lightning victims in recent years. Michael will bring to us the data for the entire 1993 year at the next meeting.
7. Kevin Bergschneider copies of Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanac* which includes a description of his lightning rod. Kevin also presented the proposed cover page for our Minutes-Directory books. All present agreed that the cover page should be accepted after few changes:

the name of the hospital will read: Provenant St. Anthony Central; the logo will be added.

Kevin and Ken Langford will present the completed cover page at the next meeting.

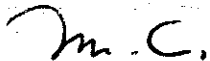
Kevin stated that golf course shelters might best be protected with a brush type air terminal on the shelter and an early streamer placed higher and 30 yards away.

8. Ken Langford presented a proposed Logo for the LDC. All agreed that it should be accepted. Ken will submit it again at the next meeting together with the cover page.

Ken brought a news report from the Feb. 24, 1994 Rocky Mountain News pertaining to the settlement of a lawsuit of the family of a lightning victim who was struck in a Fire Tower on Hahn's Peak, north of Steamboat Springs.

9. Dan Breed reported that he sent a letter to several "lightning centers" in this country and elsewhere in the world. The letter describes the LDC and our missions.
10. Steve Clark reported that he received \$100 grant from the Provenant Foundation to proceed with his project to cover lightning incidents.
11. Rich Collier described his work with triggered lightning experiments at Fort McClellan, Alabama and at Gainesville.
12. Phil Yarnell reported that a patient whom he saw 4 years ago for a carotid dissection has recently been found to have Hodgkin's lymphoma. The patient is an electrical linesman.
13. Next meeting: Friday, April 8, 1994 at 11:30 am in Conference Room B at Provenant St. Anthony Central Hospital.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Cherington, M.D.
Chairman, LDC