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Subject: Lightning Data Center Minutes

Lightning Data Center Minutes  
September 14, 2001  
St. Anthony Hospital  
Denver

Quote of the Month:

"...improvement is not linear. It is cyclic. I also discovered that training is not like money. You cannot put it in the bank and save it. You have to go out continually and fight again and again for the desired improvement."

George Sheehan This Running Life 1980

1. The meeting began at 11:30 am and was adjourned at 1:15 pm.
2. Members present: Bergschneider, Cherington, Collier, Gray, Madayag, McConnell, McDonough, Molen, Russon, Stewart, Swanson, Wallace, Yarnell.
3. At noon, we paused for a moment of silence to remember the victims of the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001.
4. I brought the following article from the literature:  

Norman ME, Albertson D, Younge BR. Ophthalmic manifestations of lightning strike. Survey of Ophthalmology 2001;46:19-24.
5. Jeff Sellon had delivered the following article as a follow-up to his presentation of last month.  

Zipse DW. Lightning protection methods: an update and a discredited system vindicated. IEEE Transactions Industry Applications 2001;37:407-414.
6. Phil Yarnell reported on a lightning strike patient who was admitted to the Hospital last week. The patient was hiking in Summit County. When a rainstorm reached him, he sat down on a rock. It was there that he was struck. He had transient paralysis. On examination, he had 1st and 2nd degree burns. In addition he had transient Lichtenberg figures (LF). One person, who saw these transient skin lesions and was not aware of LF, commented that the patient must have rolled on to fern plants.
7. Brian Gray, meteorologist with Skyview Weather, gave a superb presentation on: "Lightning: A Golfer's Biggest Hazard." I cannot do justice to his presentation in these minutes, but here are a few notes that I took:
  - a. Watch mid and high level clouds. What direction are they moving?
  - b. Ingredients of a thunderstorm: Moisture + Instability + Drafts and winds
  - c. Anvil -- top is pushed by upper level winds.

- d. Scud clouds seen at lower levels move to center of storm.
- e. It is not uncommon in Colorado for lightning to occur without rain. In our semiarid climate, rain may not reach the ground.
- f. When you take cover in low terrain, beware of another hazard - potential flooding.

8. There will be two important LDC meetings in the month of October.

Tuesday, October 2, 2001 Noon Guest Speaker: Dr. Chris Andrews, Australia

Friday, October 12, 2001 Noon Guest Speakers: John Weaver, Research Meteorologist with NOAA, Ft. Collins, CO and Bard Zajac., Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere, Ft. Collins, CO.

Topic: Lightning as Element of the Thunderstorm's Lifecycle.

Please mark your calendars now.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cherington, MD