

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER  
Minutes  
April 11, 2003  
St. Anthony Hospital, Denver, CO  
www.stanthonyldc.org

Quotes of the Month:

"It was a bright, warm end-of-the summer day when Angelo, Argall, Murdie, and Young at last left the courtroom. There wasn't a cloud in the sky outside, but just as they stepped out the door, there was an enormous clap of thunder. 'I guess someone else approves' Kathy Young said..."

"...any time liquids pass through porous materials they generate an electrical current. By sticking nonpolarizing electrodes at different spots in the ground and attaching them to a high-impedance voltmeter (all of the equipment available at the nearest Radio Shack), the current generated by the movement of the fluids could be detected and measured in millivolts...He had used the technique in geothermal and mineral exploration.."

Steve Jackson in No Stone Unturned - The True Story of NecroSearch International, the World's Premier Forensic Investigators. Kensington Books, 2002.

1. The meeting began at 11:30 am and adjourned at 1:00 pm.
2. Members present: Bradley, Cherington, Collier, Foley, Gartling, Gift, Keen, Langford, Lines, Maher, Mains, McDonough, Paton, Sanders, Schimpfle, Stevens, Stewart, Wallace, Yarnell, Zager.
3. I brought the following articles from the literature:
  - a. Tsong TY. Understanding the cellular and molecular basis of electrical shock. Ann NY Acad Sci 1999;888:150-151.
  - b. Haas LF. Neurological Stamp: Nikola Tesla (1856-1943). J Neurology, Neurosurg Psychiat 2002;72:616.
  - c. Miller SF. The long-term consequences of lightning injuries Muehlberger T, Vogt PM, Munster AM (Burns 2001;27:829-33) Letter to the editor. Burns 2003;29:97.
4. Charles Mains reported that the St. Anthony Trauma Service successfully passed the state and national review process of the American College of Surgeons. He also reported that the Trauma Service Flight for Life was the subject of a recent television program on MSNBC. Flight for Life was the first such program in the United States. It was started here 30 years ago. The modern helicopters can reach altitudes of 23,000 feet.
5. Howard Wachtel was unable to be here today to speak on "invisible lightning." His presentation will be postponed for about 2 months. Ken Langford has interesting thoughts about this topic. He will share them at that time.
6. In Howard's absence, I gave a presentation on the Neurologic Sequelae of Lightning Strikes. Much of this information can be found in a recent issue of Neurology 2003;60:182-185. Among other items I mentioned the Classification of Neurological Lightning Injuries first proposed in 1992 by Cherington, Yarnell, and Lammertse (Ann Emerg Med). The neurological injuries can be categorized into four groups:

- a. Immediate and Transient
- b. Immediate and Progressive or Permanent
- c. Delayed and Progressive
- d. Lightning Linked (2ndary effects) and Blast effects

7. The group discussed possible new directions for LDC. The overwhelming sentiment of the group present today (as in the past) is that we not tamper in any way that would change the unique character, creativity, and energy of our "think tank." However, some members want to explore additional avenues that LDC can take on. Bruce Paton, wisely, cautioned that "new avenues" often are expensive. It was decided that those interested in presenting new directions should contact Bob Wallace. Bob will collect the new ideas, consider their merits and feasibility, and report back to us.

8. Disclaimer: These minutes do not represent official positions of LDC members. They are not a verbatim account. They simply reflect the comments of members present based on your old correspondent's memory and notes.

9. Next meeting: St. Anthony Central Hospital on Friday, May 9, 2003 at 11:30 am. Scheduled speaker: Robert Glancy of the NWS (National Weather Service)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cherington, MD