

**LIGHTNING DATA CENTER
MINUTES
JUNE 9, 2006
ST. ANTHONY CENTRAL HOSPITAL, DENVER
www.stanthonyldc.org**

Quote of the Month:

“But melancholy differs from depression. It is not an illness; it does not proceed from a specific cause; it is an aspect of one’s nature. It has been recognized by artists and writers for centuries as a potential source of creativity and achievement.”

Doris Kearns Goodwin, Team of Rivals 2005

1. Meeting began at 11:30 am and adjourned at 1:15 pm.
2. Members present: Burrows Cherington, Goody, Cohen, Gahagan, Gartling, R Gift, Y Gift, Kithil, McDonough, Mullan, Nibbe, Paton, Poulton, Stewart, Studebaker, Wallace, Wells, Wermuth.
3. I brought the following article (abstracted in part here):
 - a. Finger S. Benjamin Franklin, electricity and the palsies. *Neurol* 2006;66:1559-1563.

“Franklin recognized that electricity was not the miraculous cure it was hoped to be, and he presented his findings in 1757 as communication to the Royal Society he treated at least two important colonists: James Logan, William Penn’s secretary and a prominent public official in Pennsylvania, and Jonathan Belcher, governor of several provinces. The electrical treatments failed to have any enduring effects on Logan’s body.”
4. Rich Kithil brought: IEEE Guide for Surge Protection of Equipment. Rich stated that in the “old days,” the conventional wisdom was that lightning rods alone could provide protection for a home and its contents. However, lightning rods cannot be relied upon to protect electrical equipment. For example, lightning current can travel to homes via buried electrical lines. Lightning rods would not help in that instance. Greg suggested that homes be protected with surge protectors. Denis Wermuth relayed a situation where his computer was damaged even though a surge protector was used. Rich Burrows told us about lightning damage to his computer even though he had pulled the plug. However, he did not disconnect the phone line. Rich told us that his surge protector is rated as 3000 joules.

5. Gil McDonough an article, Cloud Scanner Works Like a Charm, from the 6/7/06 issue of Rocky Mountain News. The article said that the “first pictures sent back by a \$217 million, Colorado-build NASA satellite show that the cloud-scanning orbiter’s radar system is working perfectly.”
6. I brought an email from Chris Andrews. His email was in response to the case presented last week by Phil Yarnell and Mike Foley. The clinical question raised by this case was whether a carpal tunnel syndrome could be caused by an electrical injury, and whether the patient’s symptoms could be explained by the presence of a carpal tunnel syndrome. Unfortunately, neither Phil or Mike were present today to give their thoughts.
7. As a follow-up to last month’s discussions about the Administrative Committee of LDC, the members voted for the following:

President:	Bruce Paton
Vice President:	Ken Langford
Clinical Advisor:	Phil Yarnell
Scientific Advisor:	Michael Cherington
Committee Members:	Mike Foley, Gil McDonough, Al Nibbe, Greg Stewart, Bob Wallace, Karen Wells.
8. Greg Stewart attend the conference sponsored by Vaisala in Tucson in April 2006. He provided us with an excellent summary of presentations.
9. Ryan Blumenthal of South Africa sent an interesting email on “Bio-Electrostatic Generators.”
10. Karen Wells introduced Dr. J. John Cohen, Professor of Immunology at the University of Colorado. John told us about Café Scientifique seminars. John invited members of LDC to speak about lightning at a future meeting of CS. The group suggested that Rich Kithil and Robert Gift be LDC candidates for that seminar. Robert suggests that April 2007 would be the best month to have a program on lightning.
11. Our guest speaker today was Belinda Goody, Forensic Meteorology. Her training includes Geoscience/Meteorology at Mississippi State University and Paralegal Studies at Community College of the Air Force. Using both these disciplines, she is asked to investigate weather-related/legal events. She founded “Weather or Not” in 2001. Her presentation was outstanding. She told us that her activities include the following: investigation and analysis; photography; site visitation.
12. These minutes do not represent official position of LDC or its members. They simply reflect comments made by the members.

13. Next meeting will be held at 11:30 am on Friday, July 15, 2006 in the Main Auditorium of St. Anthony Central Hospital.

Scheduled speaker: Stewart Levy, MD, Neurosurgeon

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cherington, MD