

**LIGHTNING DATA CENTER  
MINUTES  
August 11, 2006  
St. Anthony Central Hospital, Denver**

Quote of the Month:

“Particularly on nights of thunder and lightning I had nightmares about the war and pulled the covers over our heads. But when the sun arose the next morning to shine upon the rain-wet grass, Rascal and I forgot our fears and prepared to go fishing.”

Sterling North in *Rascal*, 1963 Scholastic Printing.

1. Meeting began at 11:30 am and adjourned at 1:20 pm.
2. Members present: Cherington, Flanders, Foley, Hudson, Kithil, Langford, McDonough, Nibbe, Rossie, Stewart, Studebaker, Wallace, Wells, B Yarnell, P Yarnell.
3. Earlier this morning, the Administrative Committee (Ad Com) met in a two hour session to discuss plans and programs to be initiated in the year 2007. Ken Langford took minutes at that meeting. Those minutes will be distributed to LDC members. The Ad Com members are as follows:
  - a. Chairpersons Mike Foley and Al Nibbe
  - b. Vice Chair Ken Langford
  - c. Clinical Advisor Phil Yarnell
  - d. Scientific Advisor Michael Cherington
  - e. Members Gil McDonough, Bruce Paton, Greg Stewart, Karen Wells
4. We were fortunate today to have two outstanding presentations.
  - a. Barbara and Philip Yarnell brought a VHS/slide show of their recent world travels and told us about their experiences.
  - b. Rich Kithil spoke about Lightning Safety for people in lesser-developed nations; and on Lightning Protection for a Peruvian Gold Mine. Rich has traveled to these places to help install lightning safety procedures.I cannot faithfully reproduce in these minutes these presentations, but I shall set down annotations from my notebook.
5. Barbara and Philip Yarnell’s travel VHS/slide show allowed us to share their remarkable 100 day voyage. They took a “Semester at Sea” sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh. In the past, the University of Colorado organized the program. In the future, the University of Virginia

will arrange the curriculum. There were 690 college students on the ship and 20 “senior” students. They spent 55 days taking classes on the ship, and 45 days on various lands. Their travels took them to the following places: Nassau, Puerto Rico, Brazil, South Africa, India, Myanmar, Vietnam, Hong Kong, China, and Japan. They informed us that “Neptune day” is the name given to the time the ship crosses the equator. Barb and Phil’s pictures and their accompanying dialogue were exceptional.

6. Rich Kithil provided the group with a brilliant seminar on lightning safety recommendations for lesser developed nations and for people working in a Peruvian Gold mine. NLSI has exported its methodologies to many countries including Kenya, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.

Here are a few notations from my notepad:

- a. National Lightning Safety Institute was founded in 1994. The NLSI website {which is superb and filled with important information} now has 22,000 hits per day.
  - b. According to NOAA there were 71 lightning fatalities in 2003 in the USA (population approximately 290 million). There were 49 lightning fatalities in Sri Lanka (population approx 200 million). There were 138 lightning fatalities in Bangladesh (population of 180 million).
  - c. How best to provide shelters from lightning to workers in large fields and farms? One solution has been sheet metal shipping containers.
  - d. Metal mesh on the ground has been helpful to protect against lightning’s step-voltage.
7. Rich distributed the following reprint:

Gomes C, Kithil R, Ahmed M. Developing a lightning awareness program model for third world based on American-South Asian Experience.

8. These minutes do not represent official positions of LDC. They simply reflect the comments of members.
9. Next meeting: Friday, September 8, 2006 at 11:30 am in Auditorium A of St. Anthony Central Hospital.

Scheduled speaker: Greg Zablocki

Topic: A case of severe electrocution and the choroidal retinal findings

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cherington, MD