

**LIGHTNING DATA CENTER
MINUTES
November 10, 2006
St. Anthony Central Hospital, Denver
www.stanthonyldc.org**

Quote of the Month:

“The monotone of the rain is beautiful,
And the sudden rise and slow relapse
Of the long multitudinous rain.”

Carl Sandburg

1. The meeting began at 11:30 am and adjourned at 1:26 pm.
2. Members present: Cherington, Flanders, Foley, Gartling, R Gift, Y Gift, Langford, McDonough, Mullen, T Olsen, Rossie, Wachtel, Wallace, Yarnell.
3. Gil McDonough brought an article from the October 15, 2006 Denver Post. The title: “My date with lightning” by Rob Pudim. The author describes his encounter with lightning. He was collecting butterflies on a “thirteener” when lightning struck. Gil will attempt to contact the author and invite him to a future meeting.
4. Mary Ann Cooper sent an email stating that the ICOLSE meeting KM track is looking for good papers. The meeting will be held in Paris, France on August 28-31, 2007. They are still accepting abstracts. The web site is: www.icolse.org.
5. Phil Yarnell and Mike Foley brought questions submitted by Laura Rammelsberg of National Geographic Television. We discussed these issues and Mike will send a response. I shall provide a brief summary of discussion. Why did several golfers fall down during the lightning event? Possibilities include: blast effect; ground current; one hit by direct strikes. There are at least two paths lightning might take to enter a house: telephone; water pipes.
6. George Rossie asked the question: “Can savant-like skills be created experimentally? What have transcranial magnetic stimulation studies shown? He brought two articles on this subject:
 - a. Young RL, et al. Switching skills on by turning off part of the brain. Neurocase 2004;10:215-222.

- b. Snyder A, et al. Savant-like numerosity skills revealed in normal people by magnetic pulses. Perception 2006;35:837-845.
- 7. We were fortunate to have John Friedman attend the LDC meeting. John has a PhD degree in Comparative Literature and Journalism. He has article published in the New York Times and other papers. His documentary film, Hotel Terminus, was an Academy Award winner. John is writing a book on Lightning covering the time from antiquity to modern days. He is interested in the mythology along with the cultural, religious, and scientific aspects of lightning. He asks the question: How have humans responded to lightning? Why have some people been struck repeatedly. Ken Langford stated that there is nothing about the physiology of one person the makes him/her more prone to being struck by lightning. Howard Wachtel said that lightning's "behavior" is often random. According to John the icons of mythology "used" lightning as a weapon of retribution. He pointed out how that contrasts with the concept of the Judeo-Christian religion where lightning represented the power of God. He described ideas found in James Fraziers' Golden Bough. John's book will cover our understanding of lightning from those days to modern times.
- 8. These minutes do not represent official positions of LDC or St. Anthony Hospital. They simply reflect comments of the members at the meeting.
- 9. Next meeting: Friday, December 8, 2006 at 11:30 am in the Main Auditorium of St. Anthony Central Hospital.

Guest speaker: Ernest Nitka, MD Case presentation of a lightning patient.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cherington, MD