



LIGHTNING DATA CENTER January 12, 2007 and February 9, 2007 Minutes



Minutes for the January and February meetings were not previously distributed. The omission was solely this writer's responsibility.

Lightning Data Center
4 Anthony Center, Hampton
Virginia 22061-1000

January 12, 2007 Minutes

1. The scheduled presenter, Sharon Morris, Park County, Colorado Coroner's Investigator was scheduled to present a case study of a May 2006 lightning fatality. Due to her job responsibilities she was not able to attend and her presentation was rescheduled for the March 9, 2007 meeting.
2. Members present: Foley, R. Gift, Y. Gift, Glancy, Langford, Nibbe, Poulton, Wallace, Wells, Wermuth, Yarnell.
3. A round-table discussion was conducted.
4. In lieu of the scheduled speaker Mike Foley discussed and presented photos and video of the demonstration testing that was performed in September 2006 at the Lightning Technologies Inc. (Pittsfield, MA) testing laboratory. The testing was for the National Geographic Television – Explorer : Struck By Lightning program. This television production will have several segments of lightning injury incidents, including the Castle Rock, Colorado June 2006 injury to a teenager mowing the lawn (and wearing an iPod).

The Struck By Lightning television program is currently scheduled to be broadcast on the National Geographic channel, April 11, 2007, at 8 PM, EDT.

February 9, 2007 Minutes

This was the 15th Anniversary of the founding of the Lightning Data Center on February 7, 1992. On that date ten inquisitive individuals, led by Dr. Michael Cherington, gathered to share their individual knowledge of the lightning phenomenon and its effect on man. The charter members that attended the first meeting were: Michael Cherington*; Kathy Butzin; Jodi Chambers; Deb Clark; Matthew Fulton; Ron Holle; Ronal Larson*; Raul Lopez; Terence Randolph; W. Peter Vellman; and Charles Wright.

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The second meeting of the LDC was held April 3, 1992, and those that attended were: Cherington; Chambers, D. Clark, Steve Clark*, Dick Collier, Estep, Holle, Ken Langford*, Larson, Lopez.

Several of the individuals that attended these two meetings in 1992, were also in attendance at the 15th Anniversary meeting, as indicated by an “*”.

1. Members present at the 15th Anniversary meeting: Bergschneider, Bourg, Burrows, M. Cherington, N. Cherington, Coniglio, Foley, Gift, Hawkes, Hodanish, Keen, L. Kithill, R. Kithill, Larson, McDonough, Mendez, Mullan, Nibbe, Olsen, Paton, Rossie, Sellon, Sharp, Skeen, Swanson, Vellman, Wachtel, Wells, Wiggins, Yarnell.
2. At this milestone in the history of LDC, recognition was given to Dr. Cherington’s efforts in bringing together the network of physician meteorologists, engineers, climatologists, scientists, photographers, and all those seeking to improve their understanding of the lightning phenomenon.

Gretchen and Ron Larson presented Dr. Cherington with a clay pottery bowl hand crafted by Gretchen. Those attending the meeting had the opportunity to inscribe their name on this still raw clay bowl. Gretchen will finish and fire the bowl and present it to Dr. Cherington at a later meeting.

Rich Keene presented Dr. Cherington with a tubular fulgarite souvenir.

Rich Kithil, on behalf of the National Lightning Safety Institute, and the supernatural gods Thor, Zeus and Jupiter, presented Dr. Cherington with a “Master of Lightning” proclamation, and the symbolic “lightning bolt” headgear.

On behalf of St. Anthony Hospital and Centura Health, Bob Wallace presented a glass sculpture of the Flight For Life helicopter. Flight for Life was the first hospital-based air ambulance in the U.S., and continues to be the foremost air trauma response and transport service in the Rocky Mountain west.

On behalf of all LDC members, Mike Foley presented Dr. Cherington with an engraved glass plaque recognizing his unique contribution in the founding, and guiding influence, of LDC for the past 15 years.

Photos of the meeting and the LDC 15th anniversary mementos can be viewed on the LDC web site (www.stanthonyldc.org).

In a post-meeting message, Dr. Cherington expressed his great appreciation to all LDC members, and to St. Anthony Hospital / Centura

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Health, for support of LDC throughout the past 15 years. He looks forward to the bright future of LDC.

4. The featured presentation was Tesla – Master of Lightning, presented by Jeff Sellon. Most recently, Jeff presented this unique look at the accomplishments of Nikola Tesla at Carnegie Mellon University, New York, to commemorate the dedication of a bronze bust of Tesla (the bust was one of 19, created with funds raised by 3rd graders in Michigan, so that America's lost and forgotten scientist would never be forgotten). The PowerPoint presentation had more than 70 photos some of which had never been published. The Tesla presentation was a fitting compliment to the celebration of LDC and its mission.

These minutes do not represent official positions of LDC or attending individuals.

These minutes are intended to capture the essence of the meeting as recorded and respectfully submitted by:

Michael J. Foley
Co-Chair
LDC Administrative Committee