

**LIGHTNING DATA CENTER
MINUTES
MAY 9, 2008
ST. ANTHONY CENTRAL HOSPITAL, DENVER, CO
www.stanthonyldc.org**

Monthly Quote: "...I do not believe that anyone can give MRI an unequivocally clean bill of health." In Cross Currents: A Startling Look at the Effects of Electromagnetic Radiation on Your Health, p. 168. Robert O. Becker, M.D. Jeremy P. Tarcher, Inc., 1990.

1. Meeting began at 11:55 AM and adjourned at 1:15 PM.
2. Members present: Burroughs, Clark, Glancy, Cherington, McDonough, Langford, Wells, Wachtel, Yarnell, and Olsen. Steve Clark moderated the meeting.
3. The meeting was a roundtable discussion.
4. Dick Burrows updated us on the Lightning Safety Poster. It appears the initial contact within the USFS feels the poster is too negative. USFS wants to encourage hiking. Dick has contacted some other entities: the USFS Intermountain Region, the Assistant Head of State Parks, and the USFS Ranger District. Each one was given a copy of the poster for review. Dick found out the Ranger District has a shop that sells books and hands out literature about safety issues while hiking, such as wildfires and animal attacks. No lightning safety information was found. Dick is waiting to hear from these other entities.
5. Howard Wachtel will be presenting a talk at the 30th Annual Meeting of the Bioelectromagnetic Society, in San Diego, this coming June. Here's the link: <http://bioelectromagnetics.org/bems2008/bems2008-technical-program.pdf?PHPSESSID=a4bb42a9c8920be742f2100674340ab0>. Briefly, his talk will address safety concerns associated with a newer kind of MRI, called Functional MRI (fMRI). Conventional MRIs have magnetic field strengths on the order of 1.5 Teslas and an associated current field. fMRIs have magnetic field strengths starting at around 3 Teslas and could go up to 9 Teslas. Since the magnetic fields are higher, the current fields would also be likewise increased. These increased current levels are thought to cause brain stimulation, which could have an adverse effect on the patient.
6. Michael Cherington showed us the surge protector that took a hit from the lightning that struck his house last year. The surge protect is one of those 6-outlet (inline) computer extension cords with a built-in surge protector. There was no apparent damage to the unit except a hole, about .75 in by .5 in., by the very end outlet. There was no smell to indicate burning or charring. Michael did think he had a printer plugged in to the last socket on the strip. Michael also pointed out an article entitled "Development of the National Lightning Detection Network" in the February 2008 Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society. Here's the link to the article: <http://ams.allenpress.com/archive/1520-0477/89/2/pdf/i1520-0477-89-2-180.pdf>

7. Ken Langford gave a presentation on lightning streamers at the International Lightning Detection Conference that was held in Tucson this past April. Ken also showed us a photo of what he has decided to call a "fulgarine": melted sap that had flowed out of a tree following a lightning strike.
8. Gene McDonough mentioned a highly classified U.S. Navy experiment conducted in the late 1940's that was to test the ability to hide a ship from radar using high-intensity EMF fields. Per Gene, the experiment was somewhat successful in achieving the desired result, but there were men on board that had apparently suffered some serious effects resulting from the exposure to the high intensity EMF fields.
9. Thank you to everyone who submitted ideas for speakers and also ideas/comments about the website redesign. We appreciate your input and will do our best to incorporate these ideas into the website.
10. These minutes do not represent official positions of LDC or its members. They simply reflect the comments made at the meeting.
11. Next meeting: Friday, June 13, 2008 at 11:30 AM in the Main Auditorium of St. Anthony Central Hospital. Subject: TBA. Please note on your calendars that at the July 2008 LDC meeting, John Weaver with Colorado State University's CIRA Program will be presenting a talk on the formation of lightning. He has given this talk to LDC before, but he has updated information to share with us.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven E. Clark, Consulting Meteorologist