

**LIGHTNING DATA CENTER
MINUTES
JUNE 13, 2008
ST. ANTHONY CENTRAL HOSPITAL, DENVER, CO
www.stanthonyldc.org**

Monthly Quote: "The reason lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place is that the same place isn't there the second time." Willie Tyler. On the web at:
<http://thinkexist.com/quotes/with/keyword/lightning/>

1. Meeting began at 11:45 AM and adjourned at 1:05 PM.
2. Members present: Clark, McDonough, Langford, Howard and Clara Wachtel, Yarnell, Gift, Cui-Gift, Collier, Hann, and Elder. Steve Clark moderated the meeting.
3. The meeting was a roundtable discussion.
4. Dick Burrows emailed the executive committee advising he is still trying to make progress with the Lightning Safety Poster with the agencies he made contact with prior to the last meeting. Does anyone have any ideas on how to get Dick's discussions with these agencies moving in a forward direction?
5. Gil McDonough asked if there other locales in the world with lightning frequencies similar to those found in Florida. Steve Clark advised that an isokeraunic map of the world was distributed to the group in a previous meeting. I have appended two images to the bottom of this set of minutes. The first map, in color, is the number of thunderstorm days in the world. The second map, in black and white, is the isokeraunic map of the world. Both images are courtesy of Richard Kithil, from a long-ago presentation he gave to the LDC back when he was with American Lightning Protection, Inc. Thank you Rich!

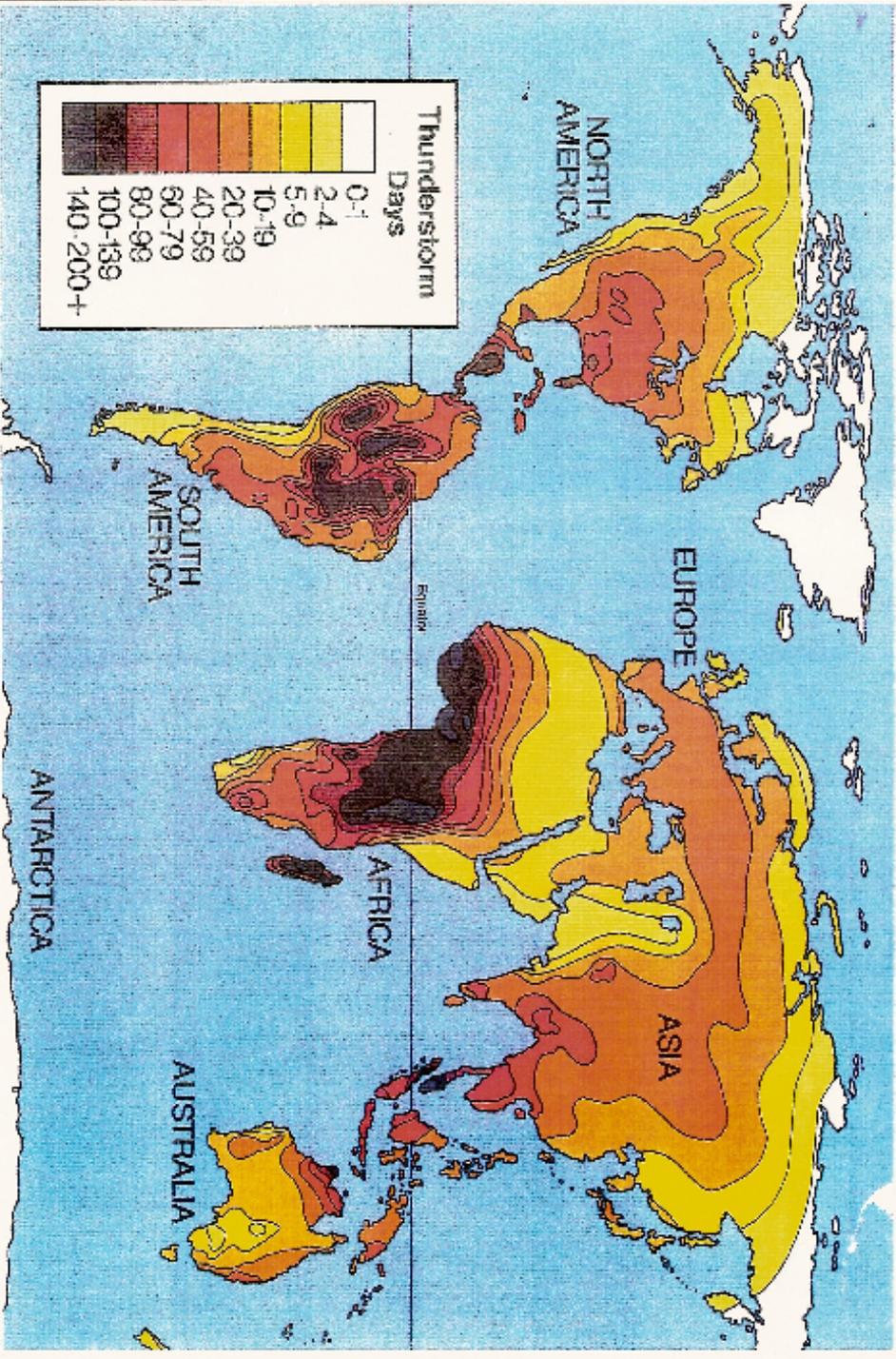
Gil also told an anecdotal tale of a friend's mother who was an accomplished swimmer, whom at the age of 50 years (approximately 20-25 years ago), was swimming in a lake when lightning struck the lake. The woman was lifted above the lake atop a column of water estimated to be 3 feet tall. She said she felt tingling in her extremities and later felt weak. She later fully recovered. Does anyone else know of cases where a person has been lifted above water level during a lightning strike?

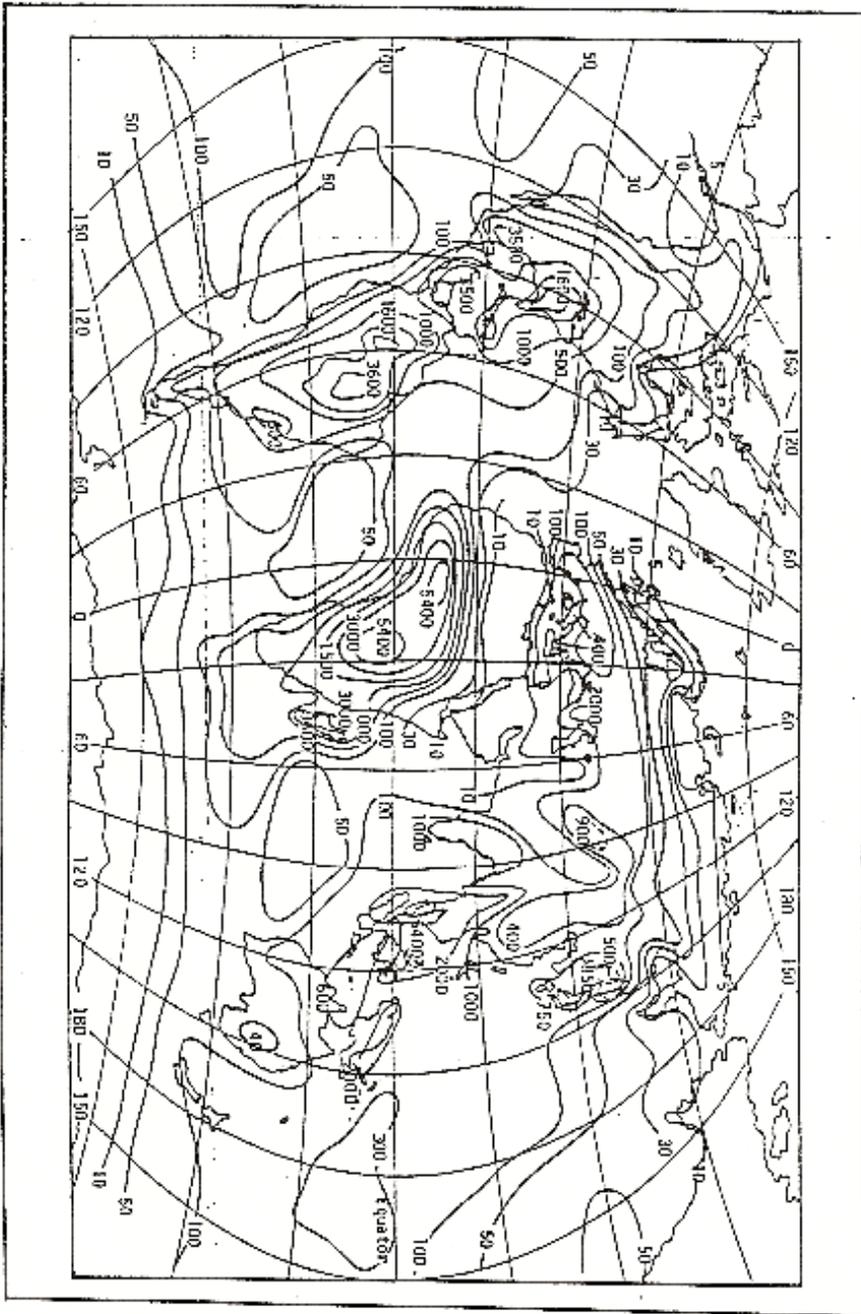
6. Robert Gift and his wife were in China during last month's meeting. They were there at the time of the earthquake, but did not feel a thing. He also saw lightning rods on some of the buildings in China and has photographs. Finally, he brought in a Chinese work-area sign from a high-voltage area bearing an image of bolt of electricity inside an equilateral triangle, with four Chinese characters below. Their translation: "Be careful. Touch electricity." My only question is – where's the "Don't", as in "Don't touch electricity"? Robert, I think it's about we get you queued up to speak before the LDC.

7. Phil Yarnell brought in a newspaper article about 2 Hotshot firefighters that survived a nearby lightning flash while they were on duty. Both were knocked down and one had pain in his lower right leg. It was thought they got hit by a side flash or they were taken down by ground current. Since no burns were found on either man's body, it appears ground current would have been the culprit. Fortunately, other people were on-scene to rescue the two downed men.
8. These minutes do not represent official positions of LDC or its members. They simply reflect the comments made at the meeting.
9. Next meeting: Friday, July 11, 2008 at 11:30 AM in the Main Auditorium of St. Anthony Central Hospital. Subject: John Weaver with Colorado State University's CIRA (Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere) 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





Map of Distribution of Number of Lightning Discharges Over the Surface of the Earth.