

**LIGHTNING DATA CENTER  
MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2009  
ST. ANTHONY CENTRAL HOSPITAL, DENVER, CO  
[www.stanthonylhc.org](http://www.stanthonylhc.org)**

Monthly Quote: "...man will occasionally stumble over the truth, but usually manages to pick himself up, walk over or around it, and carry on." Winston Churchill. Quoted in: Irving Klotz, *Bending perception*, a book review, *Nature*, 1996, Volume 379, p 412 (1). On the web at: <http://naturalscience.com/dsqhome.html>

1. Meeting began at 11:50 AM and adjourned at 1:05 PM.
2. Members present: Mendez, Sunderland, Wachtel, Yarnell, Clark, Keen, Wells, London, Gift, Cui-Gift, Collier. Clark moderated the meeting.
3. Karen Wells brought to our attention a National Science Foundation article about the formation of a 40-mile jet. Scientists at North Carolina's Duke University were able to capture a visual image of the event, and also the corresponding magnetic field measurements. A research paper is forthcoming. The link to the article is: [http://www.nsf.gov/news/news\\_summ.jsp?cntn\\_id=115440](http://www.nsf.gov/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=115440)
4. The lightning safety poster continues to move along. Ken Langford will be giving a lightning presentation to some of the students who may be involved in the poster study. Funding for the poster is now at \$2300, which means we still need \$700 to reach our goal of \$3000 for the initial study. Thanks again to all contributors.
5. Dr. Cherington, has enlisted the help of two colleagues, Charles and Ernie, to introduce physicians to the LDC. Thank you, Michael.
6. Dr. Scott London has a friend of his that was struck by lightning in late July of this year. The man was knocked to the ground by lightning near the top of Quandary Peak by a single flash. No lightning or thunder had been seen or heard prior to the strike. Dr. London will bring this person to the November meeting. The full text of the Canyon Courier article is here: <http://www.lcni5.com/cgi-bin/c2.cgi?036+article+News+2009090116055036036009>. Paper copies were distributed at the meeting.
7. Unfortunately, the LDC did not make history, as Phil's lightning patient could not make the meeting. Phil gave a quick synopsis of the situation, of which I captured small parts. This individual was getting out of their car and was holding onto an awning, when a bright flash was seen. When the witness looked under the awning, he saw a ball of light revolving inside the awning. Later on, this person reported cramping in the legs and arms. Hopefully, this person will be able to present their story at a later meeting.

8. Two Denver Post articles about a bicyclist being hit by lightning in Englewood on Wednesday, September 9 were discussed. Robert Gift thinks he saw the flash that struck the cyclist. The first article stated the man's injuries did not appear to be life threatening; however, the second article stated the cyclist was treated using post-arrest hypothermia. The articles can be found as noted below, in electronic and print formats:  
1<sup>st</sup> Article in 9/10 print edition: [http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_13304373](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_13304373)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Article in 9/11 print edition: [http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_13308137](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_13308137)
9. Dr. Whitney Sunderland presented the case of a woman being struck in New Mexico while on an archaeological dig in late July. She was near a ridge top when the strike occurred. No rain had fallen and no lightning was seen prior to the strike. There were 4-5 bystanders that were knocked down to the ground. Help was called for immediately following the strike and arrived about 10 minutes later. The woman was turning blue by the time help arrived. She was taken to the hospital. CPR was administered for approximately 45 to 50 minutes before a pulse was detected. The woman was burned along the right side of her body, from the ankle to the head. Her hair was burned. People at the hospital indicated they had treated 5 five people struck by lightning just this year.
10. We had an electric shock survivor tell what happened to him. "Sam" saw the July Denver Post article about the LDC and wanted to talk about what happened. He was a tree trimmer and had been stringing Christmas lights on a building when the metal pole he was using came into contact with a high-voltage line (76 kV or 7.6 kV, he doesn't know which). When he hit the power line, he tensed up vertically, and then stooped over. He was hospitalized overnight. He has chronic pain, hip problems, is easily angered, and has depression. Sam also stated his sense of taste has changed and stated he has an over-active bladder due to the shock. He also said he has short-term memory problems and attention span issues. He is currently taking medication for the pain and that seems to be helping.
11. These minutes do not represent official positions of LDC or its members. They simply reflect the comments made at the meeting.
12. Next meeting: Friday, October 9, 2009 at 11:45 AM in the Main Auditorium of St. Anthony Central Hospital. Roundtable with updated information from Phil Yarnell and Dr. Sunderland.
13. November Meeting: Lightning strike survivor with Dr. Scott London.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven E. Clark, Consulting Meteorologist