

**LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES**  
**MARCH 11, 2011**  
**ST. ANTHONY CENTRAL HOSPITAL, DENVER, CO**

Monthly Quote: “What senses do we lack that we cannot see or hear another world all around us?” From: p. 242 of Frank Hebert’s sci-fi novel Dune.

1. Meeting began at 11:55 PM and adjourned at 1:00 PM.
2. Members present: Clark, Yarnell, Collier, Elder, Claus, Gift, Cui-Gift, Nitka, Nibbe, and Wells. Clark moderated the meeting.
3. Clark advised the members of the WG D5 meeting associated with the substations committee meeting which will be held at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago, IL on Tuesday morning, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011, from 8 AM to Noon. As of this writing, an agenda for a meeting was not available. More info can be found on the web at <http://ewh.ieee.org/cmtc/substations/scm0/Chicago%20Meeting/basefile.htm>
4. The LDC officers are considering re-structuring the leadership to resemble the old Admin Committee style. It is proposed that Clark and Yarnell would be co-chairs, with Foley, Langford, and Stewart comprising the remainder of the committee. Your thoughts, questions, comments and nominations are welcome. Please e-mail those to me at [sclarktoto@eml.cc](mailto:sclarktoto@eml.cc), and they will be reviewed and considered by the officers.
5. Ken Langford wanted the LDC to know that some of the content from the safety poster will be used in a hazards document being written by the National Park Service. As soon as the write-up is complete, the NPS will send it over to Ken for review. Eventually, we expect to have it be available for the LDC membership to review.
6. The June LDC meeting will be the last meeting held at the St. Anthony’s Central facility. The hospital will be moving to the new facility out near Alameda and Kipling on June 20. It is unlikely we will have a formal meeting space in the new facility right away, as it will take awhile for the staff to settle into their new digs. I am looking into a Coors Field tour for the July meeting.
7. Robert Gift brought to my attention an article about people being shocked and killed during a carnival at Sao Paulo, Brazil. Apparently, some metallic ribbons were shot up into the air and came to rest across some power lines. One of the lines got hot, melted, and fell into a large crowd below, killing 16 and injuring around 60 more.

8. Phil Yarnell gave us an update on the man who was on a tractor in a field and had been struck by, or nearly struck by, a lightning flash. The patient had told Phil that he gets a small, continuous electrical shock, when moving damp clothes from his 30-year old washer to the dryer. The shock would occur when he touched the damp clothes inside the washer. The mystery has been solved. It turns out he was transferring the clothes in his bare feet, while his roommates would wear shoes while transferring the laundry. The attendees still suggested the washer should be checked for leakage current as a safety precaution.
9. Regarding the issue of electrosensitivity, Phil bought in an article from the August 2007 issue of Scientific American: “The Shark’s Electric Sense”. The article discusses the range of sensory information a shark employs while hunting prey. From afar, smell and hearing provide the best information. From a closer distance, the shark will use vision, lateral line senses, and taste. Within about 1 meter of its prey, the shark’s electrical sensors detect the weak electromagnetic emanations from its prey, which allows the shark to align itself for the kill. Researchers are trying to find out if magnets can be used to throw off the shark’s electrical sensors, and thus reduce the number of sharks caught in commercial fishing nets. Preliminary results are encouraging.
10. The May or June meeting will address the following scenario: A man is struck by lightning. What should be done medically for this man? What happens next? We anticipate doing a brief “Lightning 101” on how lightning works, followed by a brief overview of what should happen medically after the strike. Stay tuned for further information.
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, April 8, 2011 at 11:45 AM in Main Auditorium at St. Anthony Central Hospital. Subject: TBA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven E. Clark, Consulting Meteorologist

## **In Case You Missed It...Lightning in the News**

**This is a monthly listing of news and videos about lightning and allied areas as reported in the media. A headline is listed, followed by a link to the article. Please note that some of the links are perishable, which means you'll need to go to the source for the article. Enjoy!**

### **Carnival accident kills 16 in Brazil**

On the web at: <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2011/02/28/carnival-accident-kills-17-brazil/?intcmp=obnetwork>

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“The Shark’s Electric Sense.” Scientific American, August 2007. On the web at:  
<http://faculty.bennington.edu/~sherman/the%20ocean%20project/shark's%20electric%20sense.pdf>