

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES
December 14, 2012
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO
On the Web at: www.stanthonyhosp.org/ldc

Monthly Quote: “And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail”. Revelations, Chap. 11, Verse 19.

1. The meeting began at 11:50 AM and adjourned at 1:10 PM. Members Present: Clark, Elder, Claus, Wells, Nibbe, Gift, Cui-Gift, and Yarnell. Clark moderated the meeting. **HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!**
2. The International Conference on Lightning and Static Electricity will hold its annual meeting in Seattle, Washington, hosted by The Boeing Company, from September 18 – 20, 2013. For those submitting papers, the last call for abstracts is February 3, 2013. For more information, here's the link: <http://www.icolse.us/>
3. Phil Yarnell arranged for a patient to come and present her story. A few years ago, she was driving along a highway in southern Colorado, when suddenly, the seat belt cover on the passenger side was blown off, and then she saw a lightning bolt on the dash. The next thing she remembered, she was stopped along the side of the road. Her car was smoking inside, so she got out, in the middle of an intense thunderstorm, and later went back inside her car, and tried to call her insurance carrier. After going nowhere with them, she later called 911 and two hours later the EMTs arrived. The EMTs ultimately cleared her to go home, so she called a tow truck and was towed home. The driver of the tow truck did not see any damage to the vehicle, although photographs show otherwise. There were two holes in the interior plastic on the door and the doorframe where the lightning appears to have passed through into the interior of the car. There were also some marks on the roof of the car near the antenna. Later, the car dealership told her to tell her insurance carrier to declare the vehicle a total loss, as almost all of the electronics were wiped out.

When she got home, she noticed her neck was bleeding on the left side along where she was wearing a gold necklace. The necklace was a simple loop of stranded wire around her neck – no pendants or other attachments of any kind. That night, she went to sleep and woke up the next day feeling like she had been brutally beaten up. She went to the hospital, where limited testing was done. The doctors did not know what to do with her. According to Phil, when a patient presents for lightning injury, the doctor should check for, among other things, arrhythmia, punctured eardrums, and ferning. This patient did not have any of these tests administered. Patient was kept overnight and then discharged.

Patient's employment has her outdoors quite frequently, taking field measurements and observations. She tried to return to work and found she could

not add or think straight. Since then, she has reported both short-term and long-term memory loss. Afib began to occur approximately one year after the strike. Soon after the strike, she began to feel a buzzing sensation all over her body. Nowadays, the buzzing occurs over different portions of the body at different times, with increased sensation during times of rapid changes in barometric pressure. She does keep a journal to track these events. Steve Clark thought it might be useful to reconstruct the weather conditions at the times when the buzzing sensations are reported to see if any meaningful patterns can be found.

For the first two years following the strike, the approach of a thunderstorm would cause her to feel beat up. In those same two years, every time she would drive by the spot where the strike occurred, she would stomp on the accelerator to get by that area just as quickly as she could. Behavioral therapy has helped to ease her anxiety associated with the scene.

4. Phil will be away from the LDC for the next few months on a sailing cruise. While cruising the high seas, Phil will be taking a course in meteorology. Phil plans to monitor the weather conditions and to take corresponding photographs. Phil, we look forward to seeing your photos and hearing about your cruise in a future meeting.
5. Next meeting: Friday, January 11, 2013 at 11:45 AM at St. Anthony Hospital West. Conference Room TBA. This will be a round table meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven E. Clark, Consulting Meteorologist

In Case You Missed It...Lightning Links

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

Denver woman recalls using CPR to save the life of her lightning-struck husband

<http://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/front-range/denver/denver-woman-recalls-using-cpr-to-save-the-life-of-her-lightning-struck-husband>

La. Watches Weather as Crews Move Explosives

http://www.mycenturylink.com/news/read.php?rip_id=%3CDA2V00FG2%40news.ap.org%3E&ps=931
