

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

July 8, 2016
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO

Monthly Quote: “The sky already fell. Now what?” -- Steven Wright

Source: <http://www.weather.net/zarg/ZarPages/stevenWright.html>

1. Meeting began at 11:55 AM and adjourned at 1:10 PM. Members Present: Clark, Yarnell, Wachtel, Elder, Claus, Nibbe, Wells, Swanson and Condon. A lightning strike survivor who had attended a previous meeting was also present. Clark moderated.
2. Steve Clark presented an initial format for a “LDC Curriculum”, where “classroom training” would be done six months in a year. The other six months would be left open for patient meetings and other topics of immediate interest. As a first guess, the proposed plan looks like this starting in 2017:

January – Wilderness Medicine

February – Open month

March – CPR Training

April – Open month

May – First Responder Community

June – Open month

July – Hospital Setting

August – Open month

September – Radiology

October – Open month

November – Private Practitioner (Neurologist, Cardiologist, ENT, Eyes, Pain Mgmt., etc.)

Dec – Open month

Phil Yarnell recommended the training days be kept somewhat flexible to allow for the presentation of patients when the opportunity arises.

In a related vein, Howard Wachtel spoke with Michael Cherington. Dr. Cherington sends his regards to the group and is watching from afar. Dr. Cherington recommends we contact the radiology department at the hospital to gauge their interest. Phil will follow up on that.

3. Carl Swanson, through his efforts to track lightning strikes in Colorado, learned of a lightning strike on the western slope. A person had been riding an ATV and was struck. According to first responders, the person had been thrown off the vehicle and was injured. There was no cardiac arrest and the person was conscious when first responders arrived. The person did not remember the incident and complained of weakness and nausea. The sense of hearing was like being in a tunnel.

4. Our lightning survivor reported she had attended the Lightning Strike and Electric Shock Survivors' International annual meeting in Pigeon Forge last June. She reports there were approximately 20-25 survivors along with family and other supporters. She said she would have liked to have had more discussion on the medical issues associated with lightning strikes. She bought some literature there and she will be giving a talk on her lightning story to a neighborhood group near where she lives.

She still has occasional bouts of pain on the right side of her torso. She still has anxiety when storms are in the area and will close her eyes to avoid seeing the lightning. She quivers internally and sometimes the quivering shows outwardly in the trembling of the hands. Al Nibbe asked if she had beta blockers. She said she does not have those, but she does take homeopathic medications to help lessen the anxiety. When lightning flashes close to her, she sometimes has the sensation of almost being cut in half vertically, right down the middle.

5. Questions, comments, notification of errors, and critiques of these minutes are welcome. Please forward those to Steve Clark at: sclarktoto@gmail.com. Please keep your communications professional and respectful. Communications will be forwarded to the appropriate author(s) of the minutes and addressed accordingly.
6. LDC Disclaimer: These minutes do not represent official positions of the LDC or its members. They simply reflect the comments made at the meeting. Furthermore, the LDC does not implicitly or explicitly recommend or endorse any product or service. Any product or service presented in these minutes is done so for purposes of discussion and analysis. The merit (or lack thereof) is open for the consideration and review by the entire membership.
7. Next meeting: Friday, August 12, 2016 at 11:45 AM at St. Anthony Hospital West in the Pinecone Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steven E. Clark, Consulting Meteorologist

Lightning Links

This is a monthly listing of periodicals, websites, and videos about lightning and allied areas from a variety of sources. 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.
