

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

April 14, 2017
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO
www.lightningdatacenter.org

“Georgia farmer cured of rheumatism by a stroke of lightning. Physicians are now trying to cure him of the stroke of lightning.” *Erie News*, Vol. 2 No. 4, July 1, 1904. Link:
<https://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org/cgi-bin/colorado?a=d&d=ERN19040701-01.2.18&srpos=25&e=-----en-20--21--txt-txIN-lightning-----0->

1. Members Present: Members Present: Clark, Elder, Nibbe, Swanson, Stewart, Gift, Cui-Gift. Meeting began at 11:45 AM and ended at 1:05 PM.
2. The website has been updated with some content under the four symbols on the homepage.
3. Steve Clark started the meeting by asking for ideas on how to make the idea of a “Lightning Hotline” or Lightning Referral Service a reality. This idea was initially proposed in November 2016. After much discussion, our initial conclusion is to have it be like a “decision tree” or a flowchart. Greg Stewart and Carl Swanson thought it would be wise to borrow a template from an existing entity which does the same kind of thing. Possible resources would be Al Nibbe for medical questions, Lightning Strike & Electric Shock Survivors International for survivor questions, survivors here in Colorado for survivor questions, and possibly physicians with a deeper knowledge of lightning medicine. There was also some discussion on who the initial point of contact might be. The executive officers will take this up in a future discussion.

Greg thought we should do a mass communication to ER Units, psych units, clinics and so on, announcing the LDC and our Referral Service, once we get an infrastructure sorted out.

4. Al Nibbe presented an article from the October 2016 edition of Discover magazine, which made him think of the potential danger posed by fMRI devices. A neurologist paid for 104 tests in a fMRI over an 18-month period of time. He was trying to chart the brain’s responses to diet, rest and stress in an effort to understand how brain activity varies for a relatively long stretch of time, versus shorter times typically examined. There was no discussion of the potential danger of fMRI devices in the article. See the link below for the article.
5. The topic of deep brain stimulation came up. Greg Stewart remembered seeing a documentary where a man was always scowling. He underwent some brain stimulation via a probe inserted into the top of his head. During the exercise, the man said it felt as if a curtain had been pulled away. Al Nibbe went to a class reunion and saw a man who was shaky and trembling. It was recommended he do some brain stimulation. The next time Al saw him, he was walking.

6. Steve Clark briefly showed a case history from Dr. Phil Yarnell. A football practice was being held when lightning was seen in the distance. The coaches called off the practice and told everyone to get into their cars. As the kids were leaving, the coaches went to retrieve some of the equipment from the field and one of them was struck. The lightning struck the right side of his neck and went through his shoe down to ground. The other coaches were knocked down to the ground, but were able to get up and provide CPR to their colleague. He was told his clothes were smoking at the time CPR was given. He was in a medically-induced coma for five days. He still has symptoms from the strike and hopefully, Dr. Yarnell will be able to provide a more up-to-date medical profile for this case. A link to a news article for this case is given below.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Next meeting: Friday, May 12, 2017, from 11:45 to 2:00 PM at St. Anthony Hospital West. Room: Conference Rooms C & D. The May meeting will be the Colorado statewide EMS/First Responder meeting. An announcement will be broadcast for that meeting soon.

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.

2017: "Stunning Images Show Rare Purple Lightning", *Foxnews.com*.

<http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2017/04/07/stunning-images-show-rare-purple-lightning.html>

A. Hadhazy, 2016: A Mind in Time. *Discover*, October 1, 2016.

<http://discovermagazine.com/2016/oct/a-mind-in-time>.

S. Bailey, 2017: Florence Football Coach Speaks About Surviving Lightning Strike. *WMBFnews.com*.

March 9, 2017. <http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/34707598/florence-football-coach-speaks-about-surviving-lightning-strike>
