

# LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

October 13, 2017  
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO  
[www.lightningdatacenter.org](http://www.lightningdatacenter.org)

Monthly Quote: “A strange story comes from Ohio. During a thunder storm, a few days since, a large oak tree in the Miami Valley was struck by lightning and rent from top to bottom. In falling apart, the fragments disclosed a skeleton, yellow with age, which instantly fell to pieces and scattered over several feet of ground. With the remains was found a few buttons of ancient pattern and a leather pocketbook contained papers which discovered the secret of the entombed skeleton. The remnants were those of Roger Vanderburg, a captain in the revolutionary army and an aide to General Washington.”

Source: Las Animas Leader, August 23, 1873

1. Members Present: Clark, Stewart, Langford, Stemple, Wachtel, Claus, Elder, Terry, Gift and Yarnell. Meeting began at 11:50 AM and ended at 1:15 PM.
2. The LDC welcomes Lisa Wimberger, our newest member. She was struck by lightning as a teenager, which led to a highly transformative experience later on in life, as you will read later.
3. On September 30, Steve Clark gave a lightning presentation at St. Anthony Hospital for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Medical-Legal forum presented by the Mile High RETAC. The talk was well-received and requests have been made for presentations at next year’s Medical-Legal forum and at the National Safety Summit to be held here in Denver next year.
4. Greg Stewart mentioned a lightning strike in Aspen, Colorado. On August 31 at approximately 6:40 PM, on the east side of Aspen, some hikers were descending down the mountain. They saw lightning and heard thunder right after. The lightning had struck Ute Rock, sending large boulders some 1000 feet down the mountain. Engineers had to stabilize the rock formation and they say more scaling (stabilization) may be needed. There was not any property damage, although one of the boulders punched a hole in the street.
5. Last weekend, Barb Stemple attended a health fair sponsored by KUSA-TV, a Denver television station. Locally, the health fair is known as 9Health Fair. At the fair, community members told Barb they want another lightning program, similar to that which LDC did last June. An emergency response professional told her the local high school has an EMS group and would like to attend. Tentatively, the meeting will be held sometime in May next year.
6. Ken Langford presented a video of a purported lightning strike and invited discussion as to whether the strike was real or fake. Ken thought the video was fake due to the following:
  - There was no illumination of the landscape or vegetation that one would normally associate with a nearby flash.
  - The camera was too perfectly centered for capturing the strike.
  - The explosions in the water looked like depth charges had been placed in the water and then ignited.

7. Our newest member, Lisa Wimberger, was our featured speaker and survived a lightning strike on her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. She and seven of her friends were on mopeds in Pennsylvania. Hail had started to fall and they took shelter under an awning. She was leaning against a garage door handle against the lumbar section of her back and her friend was touching her on the shoulder. There was a flash and thunder. She doesn't know if she was directly hit or if the structure had been hit. She and her friend were thrown roughly 3 to 4 feet from the door. The next thing she remembered was being in excruciating pain in the lower lumbar part of her back and her friends standing around her saying they were hit by lightning. The two youths told their parents and they did not believe them.

At the time of the strike, she had been standing with her lower back in contact with the garage door handle. She thinks the lightning went through the door handle into her lower back, which hyper sensitized the vegus nerve. There were no marks, but there was a horizontal "track" approximately 1.5 inches outward from either side of the spine that was extremely sensitive (painful) to the touch.

About a month following the strike, she began to have grand mal seizures and she would pass out. From that point through 2007, she had 2-3 seizures per year, which got worse later on. One day, at the age of 30, she was at her doctor's clinic on the exam table when she passed out. When she came to, she could not speak or move. She was drenched in sweat and has turned blue. Her EKG had flat-lined. She was diagnosed with vaso-vagal seizures. After five hours of observation and tests, the doctor said there was nothing he could do for her, but he did tell her to manage her stress and to stay hydrated. She was told to go home, so she was carried on a golf cart to the clinic boundary and then told to walk the rest of the way home. Thankfully, she lived very close to the clinic so the people on the golf cart could see her get home safely.

Being told to manage her stress was something of an "Ah-Ha!" moment for her. With the passage of time, the seizures were getting worse. As the seizures came and went, she began to recognize a "seizure halo", which is basically a very short-time span precursor to a seizure, characterized by a feeling of "her stomach dropping out". She started to rehearse how she might react when the halo would come on and did this each and every day for 9 months by fighting and kicking. She had her last seizure in 2007, during which she could not breathe on her own. (VERIFY!) Later, while a passenger in a car, she recognized the seizure halo and immediately went into a fighting mode, kicking, screaming and punching the dashboard for about 2 minutes, and she did not seize. After that, she trembled bodily for approximately 8 hours and was very tired for several days after. Since then, she has recognized the seizure halo several times, but has not had to go into fighting mode to ward off a seizure. Instead, the seizure never happened.

Amid all of this, she has taken multiple classes in neurology, brain science, and psychology, yet has never attained a degree. Instead, she opened an educational institute called the Neurosculpting Institute ([www.neurosculptinginstitute.com](http://www.neurosculptinginstitute.com)). The institute reports success in helping people where conventional medicine has been unable to. For example, a paraplegic presented with closed hands with no range of motion whatsoever. Thanks to the training provided by the institute, the paraplegic has been able to move fingers and open the hands enough to where a bottle cap can be twisted off. The institute has multiple centers in the U.S. and in other countries.

8. Questions, comments, notification of errors, and critiques of these minutes are welcome. Please forward those to Steve Clark at: [sclarktoto@gmail.com](mailto: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.
9. 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.
10. Next meeting: Friday, October 13, 2017, from 11:45 to 1:00 PM at St. Anthony Hospital West. Room: Conference Rooms E & F. A lightning survivor will tell their story.

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.**

Auslander, J., 2017: Pitkin County to Spend \$35K to Fix Aspen's Ute Trail. The Aspen Times. October 10, 2017. Link: <http://www.aspentimes.com/news/pitkin-county-to-spend-35k-to-fix-aspen-ute-trail/>

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