

# LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

October 12, 2018  
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL WEST, LAKEWOOD, CO  
[www.lightningdatacenter.org](http://www.lightningdatacenter.org)

Quote of the Month: “If you are in the fields, and lightning begins to pelt the earth around you, lie down. Then you’ll have as much chance at least as the worms and toads and other humble things.” Source: *Evening star*. [volume] (Washington, D.C.), 28 May 1933. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.

Link: <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn83045462/1933-05-28/ed-1/seq-63/#date1=1789&index=5&rows=20&words=Lightning+lightning+LIGHTNING&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=&date2=1963&proxtext=lightning&y=0&x=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>

1. Members Present: Clark, Yarnell, Langford, Stemple, Wachtel, Wells, Gift, Nibbe, Terry and Elder. Meeting began at 11:55 AM and ended at 12:55 PM. Clark moderated.
2. The LDC is accepting donations, either as cash or check. If you donate via check, please make your check payable to Steve Clark at 755 S. Clinton Street, #2A; Denver, CO 80247. He will cash the check and keep the cash holdings specifically for the LDC. When the LDC incurs expenses, Steve will pay for services rendered through his bank account using the cash from LDC’s cash holdings. A log will be maintained detailing the inflow and outflow of monies.
3. Steve Clark presented a YouTube video with two segments which suggested lightning may have contributed to the bridge collapse in Genoa, Italy last summer. In the first segment, approximately 6 seconds into the video, a brief flash of light is reflected off the wet surface in the lower left-hand quadrant of the image. The flash is followed immediately by the collapse. In the second segment, approximately 27 seconds into the video, what appears to be some flashes are followed immediately by the collapse. Members questioned lightning being the cause of the collapse since the collapse occurred so very quickly following the flash. Link to video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tx6hQOfE5qU>

Following our meeting, Ken Langford sent Steve another 2-segment video. In the first segment, approximately 42 seconds into the video, the dark shadow in the lower left quadrant of the screen can be seen moving, followed by a yellowish blink of light at approximately 43 seconds. This is the bridge collapsing, followed by a flash of light. The second segment is a repeat of the second segment in the video discussed in the previous paragraph, albeit somewhat longer. Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nv9bDogDEWw&feature=youtu.be>

4. Barb Stemple is rethinking her idea of starting a lightning support group. Instead of having a physical meeting every month, she is considering starting a website where people can post their story of being hit by lightning. She would also include tips on what to look for medically after being struck and some lightning safety pointers. Steve Clark said LDC has some content to contribute to this website, assuming survivors grant permission to have their stories be posted online. If this site goes live, the web address will be “LightningStruckMe.com”. Members said accounts posted will need to be moderated so that unwanted material can be removed.

Last month, Barb was on a Caribbean cruise. While inside the dining room, she saw lightning flash outside the window, which caused her some pangs of anxiety. She tried changing seats at the table, but no matter what seat she took, she could still see lightning flashing outside. Fortunately, a couple of her cruise mates understood the cause of her anxiety and helped her.

Barb also mentioned two recent news accounts of lightning strikes. One account was of two women who were hospitalized after seeking shelter under a tree while it was raining. The other account was of three children struck while waiting at a bus stop.

5. Shirley Terry is working with a non-profit organization called “Save A Life”. Save A Life offers hands-on training and educational materials for first aid, disaster preparation, threat awareness and other areas of public safety. Just this year, lightning has been added to the list. Shirley has asked the LDC to contribute quick safety pointers that will be listed on a tri-fold brochure to be handed out at various public outlets and venues.

Shirley also mentioned the National EMS Summit may be held sometime during March- May 2019, provided funding arrangements can be made.

6. Dr. Phil Yarnell told us the annual meeting of the Lightning & Electric Shock Survivors International group will be held in Pidgeon Forge, Tennessee in mid-May 2019. The exact dates are not known at this time.
7. Dr. Mary Ann Cooper, Managing Director of the African Centres for Lightning and Electromagnetics Network (ACLENet), is pleased to announce the ACLENet was awarded a grant for nearly \$100,000 by the Ludwig Family Foundation. Monies will be used to protect 3 more schools in Uganda as ‘model schools’ and to provide lightning safety education to teachers, students and parents in the regions of these schools. In addition, some of the funds will be used for proposals to reduce the costs of lightning protection by a) using locally-sourced materials and b) designing a “template” for a typical school building, rather than custom-designing lightning protection for each building. Several lightning protection experts have volunteered their time for these ideas and the Ugandan Ministry of Education has provided architectural drawings of schools being funded by the World Bank as a start to this project. Congratulations to ACLENet!
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, November 9, 2018, from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM at St. Anthony Hospital West. Room: Conference Rooms E & F. Meeting Format: TBA.

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.**

Meadows, J., 2018: 2 Women Injured After Lightning Strikes Tree in Highland Park. *Highland Park Patch*. August 29 and 31, 2018. Link: <https://patch.com/illinois/highlandpark/2-women-injured-after-lightning-strikes-tree-highland-park>

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Rowland, A., 2018: 3 Children Struck by Lightning at Bust Stop in Stable Condition. *Jackson Heights Patch*. September 20 & 21, 2018. Link: <https://patch.com/new-york/jackson-heights-elmhurst/s/gikhw/3-children-hit-lightning-bus-stop-seriously-injured>

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Rowland, A., 2018: Young Woman Hit by Lightning: 'She Is A Living Miracle'. *Crystal Lake Patch*. September 14, 2018. Link: <https://patch.com/illinois/crystallake/young-woman-hit-lightning-she-living-miracle>

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