

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

April 10, 2020
ZOOM MEETING

www.lightningdatacenter.org

Monthly Quote: “Some calamities - the 1929 stock market crash, Pearl Harbor, 9/11 - have come like summer lightning, as bolts from the blue.” George Will, partial quote.

Source: <https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/lightning-quotes>

1. Members Present: Clark, Swanson, Langford, Wachtel and Yarnell via Zoom. Clark moderated. Meeting began at 11:50 AM and ended at 12:55 PM.
2. **VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ.** Due to the coronavirus, LDC will continue to hold meetings via Zoom for the time being until it is deemed safe to resume meetings at the hospital. We had five members in the first Zoom meeting and we look forward to more of you attending via Zoom next month. If you tried joining this month’s meeting and had trouble joining, please let me know via e-mail and I will work with you to try and figure out what happened and fix it.
3. 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. At the present, the LDC has \$439.00 in cash holdings.
4. Carl Swanson reported his First Responder Data Collection Project is underway in both Colorado and Tennessee. He said a more relaxed approach will be taken toward the collection of data, given the current situation. The Colorado effort is now in its sixth year.
5. Dr. Phil Yarnell said the Lightning Strike & Electric Shock Survivors International group has postponed the national conference scheduled for May until the last week in August in Pigeon Forge. As it stands now, LDC is still planning on hosting the National conference in May 2021.
6. Phil told us the neurologic complaints of survivors appear to be more problems of the mind, rather than physically based. He said the difference between the organic and functional origins of these complaints is hard to separate. He recalled the case of the man struck by lightning when the current ran up into his hands by way of a hose he was holding. He still suffers from episodes of dystonic spasm, which occasionally gets into his legs. Ken Langford asked if hypnosis might be effective in relieving the dystonia. Phil said cognitive retraining and cognitive behavioral therapy are potentially useful in helping patients overcome their fears and phobias.

7. We speculated a little bit on what the numbers for lightning casualties might look like this year, given the COVID-19 virus. Carl said he thought they may be higher than usual since people will be weary of staying indoors and want to go outside when it is warmer, even in bad weather. Ken thought there might be fewer, since people will tend to be closer to home and tend to go inside when storms threaten.
8. Carl said home builders in his area are no longer using copper piping. Instead, he said they are using red piping made of a nylon reinforced plastic. Carl wondered how that would affect the grounding of the houses. Ken said the contractor would need to figure out the grounding issues.
9. LDC welcomes your medical questions. Please send them via e-mail to Steve Clark at sclarktoto@gmail.com. Your medical questions will be forwarded to Dr. Phil Yarnell for his review and will usually be taken up for discussion in the next month's meeting. Please be advised any questions posed are for the general consideration by the group and do not constitute a formal medical opinion. If a formal evaluation is requested, arrangements can be made directly with Dr. Yarnell. If you have a medical emergency, please call 911 or your local EMS.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Next meeting: Electronic Meeting via Zoom. Friday, May 8, 2020, from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM MDT (17:45 UTC to 19:00 UTC).

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.

No links this month.
