

# LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

May 8, 2020  
ZOOM MEETING

[www.lightningdatacenter.org](http://www.lightningdatacenter.org)

Monthly Quote: “They say that lightning never strikes in the same place twice, but the same is not true for courage. As it turns out, when courage strikes, it almost always begets more courage.” - Kathi Appelt Source: <https://www.wiseoldsayings.com/lightning-quotes/>

1. Members Present: Clark, Swanson, Langford, Wachtel, Yarnell, Beckmann, Stemple, Nitka and Terry via Zoom. Clark moderated. Meeting began at 11:45 AM and ended at 12:35 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. As these minutes were going to press, Steve Clark had a conversation with Jim Segnari with the Lightning Strike and Electric Shock Survivors group. Per our discussion, there will NOT be a national meeting of LS&ESSI in May 2021 due to the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19. Instead, our focus will shift towards hosting a conference in Denver, Colorado in May 2022.
5. Bruce Beckmann gave a 75-minute PSAR (Preventative Search And Rescue) talk on lightning online on Wednesday, May 6. There were 49 attendees, with some as far away as California and Washington, D.C. One thing Bruce emphasized was to have first responders note those who were hit by lightning, but did not seek treatment. The talk was well-received among those attending. A video was recorded and a link has been posted on the LDC website under “Safety”.
6. Dr. Phil Yarnell wanted to clarify some comments he presented in the April minutes. He said the brain and the mind may be linked. Things that are thought to be purely neuropsychiatric in nature may not be. He mentioned the case of the nurse that committed suicide after she contracted the COVID-19 virus while working on the front lines, which made national headlines. Phil said the virus may have disposed her mind to suicidal depression.

7. Phil also told us of a woman that was hit two times by lightning during the same outing. She was hiking when she was first hit, then struck again while walking to her car. Phil was trying to have her meet us at the hospital (before COVID-19). Hopefully, she can join us via Zoom.
8. Barb Stemple told us a man was hit by lightning while riding a motorcycle as a young man. He is much older now. Barb will reach out to him and see if he wants to talk to the LDC.
9. The lightning safety brochure is almost done. We appear to be satisfied with the wording. The artwork is being finalized. Hopefully, we'll have a finished product by our next meeting.
10. Steve Clark mentioned two articles. *EOS* magazine gave a survey of lightning detection technologies and how the data are being used to save lives during severe weather events and to study lightning-triggered wildfires. Another article being published in the April edition of the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* documents the occurrence of what could be the world's largest hailstone, which fell in a highly populated area in Argentina in February 2018. Although the article does not reference lightning, Steve thought it would be interesting to see the lightning activity associated with this storm since most likely, a very strong updraft would have been present to produce such large hail. Ken Langford showed a short video from CNN News showing the large hailstones falling.
11. LDC welcomes your medical questions. Please send them via e-mail to Steve Clark at [sclarktoto@gmail.com](mailto: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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Next meeting: Electronic Meeting via Zoom. Friday, June 12, 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.**

Goss, H. 2020: Lightning Research Flashes Forward. *EOS*. April 24, 2020.

Link: <https://eos.org/features/lightning-research-flashes-forward>

NOTE: The online article contains links to other lightning-related articles that may be of interest to our membership.

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Kumjian, M.R., R. Gutierrez, J.S. Soderholm, S.W. Nesbitt, P. Maldonado, L.M. Luna, J. Marquis, K.A. Bowley, M.A. Imaz and P Salio, 2020: Gargantuan Hail in Argentina. *BAMS*. Accepted for publication online in April 2020.

Link: <https://journals.ametsoc.org/doi/10.1175/BAMS-D-19-0012.1>

Zdanowicz, C., 2020: Hailstone the Size of a Football in Argentina May Have Smashed a World Record. *CNN.com*. Saturday, May 2, 2020.

Link: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/02/weather/gargantuan-hailstones-record-scn-trnd/index.html>

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