

# LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

June 12, 2020  
ZOOM MEETING

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

Monthly Quote: “\with hope, you can survive any shock.” - Lailah Gifty Akita

Source: <https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/shock?page=2>

1. Members Present: Clark, Wachtel (Howard & Clara), Yarnell, Beckmann, Terry and a lightning survivor via Zoom. Clark moderated. Meeting began at 11:45 AM and ended at 12:40 PM.
2. **VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ.** In July, we might be able to meet again at the hospital. Initial indications suggest we may be able to have 20 of us in a room. Steve Clark will have a better handle on that towards the end of June.
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 \$469.00 in cash holdings, thanks to a recent donation of \$30 from Dr. Michael Cherington.
4. As these minutes were being written, Steve Clark received an e-mail from LDC member Richard Kithil, who advised of the passing of Rich Keen, a longtime LDC member. Rich was a Professor Emeritus at the University of Colorado. He was a Cooperative Observer for the National Weather Service and was honored in the Winter 2017 edition of The National Cooperative Observer for 30 years of unbroken daily weather observations from his station in Coal Creek Canyon, Colorado. He was a meteorologist who loved the outdoors and was an avid hiker, mountaineer and photographer. A photograph he took of lenticular clouds was included in the 2016 stamp set “Cloudscapes” for the U.S. Postal service. His other passion was astronomy. For the LDC, he would occasionally give talks on photos he took of aurorae or of lightning – always beautiful. He was a kind and gentle soul with a great sense of humor and an infectious laugh. After a lengthy, 4-year battle with pancreatic cancer, Rich passed away on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at home with his children. His presence will be missed.
5. ERRATA: In last month’s minutes, I reported there would not be a meeting of the Lightning Strike & Electric Shock Survivors group in 2021. That was incorrect. A meeting will be held in 2021, just not here in Denver.
6. The lightning safety brochure that Barb Stemple initiated is done and will be posted on the LDC website soon.

7. Dr. Phil Yarnell presented two electric shock cases. In the first one, a woman was making popcorn on a coiled stove top. She was taking the pan off the stove when she was shocked up her right arm and through the left arm. She estimated she was contact with the electric source for about 3 seconds. Inspection of the stove revealed the ground wire and the hot wire were reversed, causing her to be shocked by 220 volts. She did not have any burns, but her complaints are fuzzy thinking, feeling like she is going to faint and not feeling well. EKG was negative. She has undergone psychological therapy and eye therapy. She reports being half-way recovered. She is able to work, but on a limited basis due to the aforementioned issues.

In the second case, a man was shocked by 1000 volts approximately 4 years ago. He died in a 3-wheeler accident with alcohol in his system. Phil said the fatality was due in part to the man having a degraded sense of self following the electric shock.

8. A lightning survivor who has attended a few of our meetings in the past joined this meeting. She reports feeling fine. She said her left leg below the knee tingled and would hurt at times for about 6 months after she was struck. Beyond that, she did not report having any sequelae following the strike. We discussed obtaining some lightning on the date of her strike. She will e-mail Steve Clark with the date and location.
9. Steve Clark presented two audio interviews of people hit by lightning. One was a woman, who as a young Girl Scout, was struck while standing on a cot sealing the flaps of a tent. Her buddy tried to revive her, saw she was unconscious and ran to get help. Fifty years later, they were reunited thanks to the National Public Radio team and social media.

The second was a woman who was struck while walking into a synagogue while holding an umbrella and her 2-year old kid. After the strike, she looked and saw a lifeless body on the ground and realized it was hers. The umbrella she had been holding was a smoldering skeleton of an umbrella. The bottoms of her feet were burned and the soles of her shoes had been blown off. She was mad because the shoes were expensive. Then she had what might be described as a religious experience. Later, she found she was able to foretell certain events and began to send herself e-mails to document the things she was seeing. She has co-authored a book called "Changed in a Flash", which documents the strike and how her life has changed post-strike.

10. 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.
11. 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.

12. 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.
  
13. Next meeting: Electronic Meeting via Zoom or at the hospital. Friday, July 10, 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.**

Garcia-Navarro, L. 2018: 50 Years After She Was Struck by Lightning, Reconnecting with the Girl Who Saved Her. *NPR.org*. February 4, 2018. Link: <https://www.npr.org/2018/02/04/582904413/50-years-after-she-was-struck-by-lightning-reconnecting-with-the-girl-who-saved->  
Audio clip available on webpage.

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Riechers, M. 2018: A Woman Is Struck by Lightning, Did She Meet God? *Wisconsin Public Radio*. November 29, 2018. Link: <https://www.wpr.org/woman-struck-lightning-did-she-meet-god>  
Audio clip available on webpage.

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On the Passing of Rich Keen:

Dr. Richard Keen, R.I.P. The Heartland Institute News and Opinion. January 27, 2020.  
Link: <https://www.heartland.org/news-opinion/news/dr-richard-keen-rip>

The Cloudscapes Stamp Set in an educational resource page from the U.S. Postal Service.  
Link: <https://about.usps.com/education-kits/cloudscapes.pdf>

The National Cooperative Observer, a newsletter by the National Weather Service's Cooperative Observer programs aimed at recognizing the valuable public service performed by these individuals.  
Link to Winter 2017 edition: <https://www.weather.gov/media/coop/newsletter/17coop-winter.pdf>