

# LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

September 11, 2020  
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL  
[www.lightningdatacenter.org](http://www.lightningdatacenter.org)

Monthly Quote: "I looked up and everything else was falling over." A lightning survivor in Venice Beach, CA after being struck. Source: WGN-TV.

1. Members Present: Clark, Swanson, Stemple, Terry, and Langford. In addition, we welcomed a new member: Richard Sonnenfeld. Richard is based out of Los Alamos National Laboratory at the Langmuir facility near Socorro, New Mexico and has a professional interest in the ball lightning phenomenon. Clark moderated. Meeting began at 11:50 AM and ended at 1:15 PM.
2. **VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ!** Per the advice of hospital administration, this month's meeting was held via Zoom. For the time being, we will continue to meet only via Zoom. As usual, readers are urged to pay attention to e-mails and meeting announcements, since the COVID-19 situation is highly fluid.
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 \$454.00 in cash.
4. As of today's date, Carl Swanson's First Responder Data Collection Project has recorded in Colorado, a total of 5 people struck. Of those, 1 person was fatally struck, 1 was injured, and 3 were affected. Carl also received an update from one of his first responders in Colorado. A person was struck by lightning at a campground and was reported as affected, but not injured. The survivor complained of numbness and headache.

For Tennessee, 2 people have been struck, with no fatalities, 1 injury and 1 being affected. Carl presented a first responder report from Tennessee. A person was on an aluminum ladder working on a chicken coop when lightning struck. Patient fell off the ladder and was able to get inside the house under their own power. Patient said the lightning went through the body and out the big toe of the shoe. There were no burn marks on the patient's body or the clothing. 12 lead showed no signs of ischemia and a detailed assessment did not find any injuries. Patient complained of pain all over and a tingling sensation. Patient was taken to the hospital and complained of severe pain while in transit. Pain meds were given which helped reduce the intensity of the pain. Patient was taken to the ER.

Carl also reported 3 metal roofs have been hit by lightning there in 2020. He also said people in that part of the country tend to disregard the threat of lightning. Folks tend to continue with their outdoor activities, even if a storm is nearly on top of them.

5. Richard Sonnenfeld has been at Langmuir since 2002. He described the facility as having an eclectic mix of people doing their own research, yet somehow, some way, there manages to be a synthesis of these research projects into a greater whole. He showed us a video of spikes which coincided with a lightning strike. The spikes were in the frequency range of 10-80 MHz. He also showed a video of step leaders with fanning at the leading edges of the leaders.
6. Ken Langford showed the video of the lightning strike in Alberta, Canada, which he has shown before. Ken emphasized the balls of light left between two levels of metal roof and suggested they may be ball lightning. Richard agreed. Richard would like to obtain lightning detection network data for this event. It is possible he and Ken may collaborate on a research paper.
7. Carl shared a 35-mm photo, shown below, which shows a streak of light in the upper left quadrant. We speculated on what it might be. The photographic parameters were: 17-second exposure, bulb-setting, 50 mm Zoom, F-Stop 11. The photo was taken at 11:40 PM MDT on July 13, 1988 in Aurora, Colorado. Any ideas on what this might be?



8. The lightning safety brochure is not yet finalized. Shirley Terry found some errors in it and we are seeking funding for printing.
9. Richard said with all of the cellphone cameras and other digital cameras out there, it is only a matter of time before someone captures good video of ball lightning in the air.

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, error notifications, and critiques of these minutes are welcome. Please forward those to Steve Clark. 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: Zoom meeting. Friday, October 9, 2020, from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM MDT.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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## 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.**

Scheidt, M., 2020: VIDEO: Louisiana Woman Has Electric Experience on Her Front Porch. Brproud.com. August 13, 2020. Link: <https://www.brproud.com/news/video-louisiana-woman-has-electric-experience-on-her-front-porch/>

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Skilling, T., 2020: Lightning Kills 1, Injures More in Rare California Thunderstorm. WGN-TV. August 17, 2020. Link: <https://wgntv.com/weather/lightning-kills-1-injures-more-in-rare-california-thunderstorm/>

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Samenow, J., 2020: Lightning in D.C. Area Struck Washington Monument, Injured National Guardsman in Lafayette Square Thursday Night. The Washington Post. June 5, 2020. Link: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2020/06/05/lightning-dc-area-struck-washington-monument-injured-national-guardsmen-lafayette-park-thursday-night/>

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Zuber, N., 2020: Blog - Struck by Lightning. Heavy Lies The Helmet, LLC. September 9, 2020. Link: <https://heavyliessthehelmet.com/2020/09/09/nick002/>