

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

September 10, 2021
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL
www.lightningdatacenter.org

Monthly Quote: “Here’s to lightning. Well you always electrify me. Someday I know you’ll satisfy me and all that lightning will be my lightning too.” - Bob Weir, 2004, Grateful Dead Productions.

Members present: Members present: Langford, Rossi, Swanson, Wachtel, Clark, Yarnell, Stemple and Terry. Meeting began at 11:45 AM and ended at 12:55 PM.

1. **VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ!** As of September 2021, we will continue to hold meetings via Zoom only. The number of COVID cases here in Colorado and the nation has risen. There are still concerns about the spread among younger people and those who are not vaccinated or partially vaccinated. The Delta variant of COVID is the dominant strain of the virus. At the present, masks in Colorado are recommended but not required. Local governments and business will be able to require mask use as they wish; however, indoor mask use is required for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated in certain places.
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. At the present, the LDC has \$682.00 in cash.
3. Next year in 2022, the LDC will be hosting the 33rd Annual Conference of the Lightning Strike & Electric Shock Survivors International (LS&ESSI). The questionnaire has been revised and it will be sent to members of LDC and LS&ESSI to find out how many people may attend and what is most important to them. Our tentative dates are June 16-18, 2022.
4. In this month’s meeting announcement, I said we would be hearing from the man who was seen on video being struck by lightning while on the tarmac of a Florida airport. Unfortunately, the man did not join the meeting, so instead, we discussed his case.

When asked what the man’s main problem is in trying to return to his former self, George Rossie said the man told him he was terrified of being outside even on fair-weather days. When it is stormy outside, he stays indoors and closes the drapes. George also noted he needs help from time to time with eating and brushing his teeth. When asked what the man was like pre-strike, George said he was a go-getter and held two jobs. He had played football at the high school and semi-professional level. Now, it is if his confidence has been destroyed. A psychologist said the man has missed many of his appointments. Finally, Dr. Phil Yarnell said he has pain in his arms, trunks and feet. Phil also said he had burn marks on the palm of one hand, his chest and his left foot. Photographs of the burns indicated some ferning.

5. Barb Stemple said she has distributed 6000 of the lightning safety brochures. She has handed them out to Chambers of Commerce, EMTs, lodges, resorts, fire departments and golf courses, among others. The feedback she has received has been overwhelmingly positive.
6. Barb also reported a story of two people that were struck by lightning while on their cellphones. Carl Swanson asked if modern cellphones, with their lack of a telescoping antenna, make it less likely to be hit by lightning. Steve Clark said it is immaterial whether or not a cellphone has a telescoping antenna because the antenna would not be any more attractive to lightning. He also said the greater risk from using a cellphone when struck is the potential of a burn injury or of the phone possibly exploding due to the heat. Ken Langford said another risk to cellphone users during storms is being distracted and thus not paying attention to their environment.
7. Carl Swanson asked if any of the Colorado members knew if there were any lightning casualties in Colorado so far in 2021. None of the first responders in his data collection project had any records of a strike to people. Additionally, Carl noted Steve Hodanish's website did not list any casualties for far this year. Carl asked if, going back to 1900, if there was ever a year where there was not a lightning casualty in Colorado. Ken recommended Carl reach out to Ron Holle, who probably has the best handle on historic lightning data. Steve Clark commented casualties could easily have gone unreported as has been demonstrated by the LDC in the 1990s.
8. Ken Langford said the Meeting in February 2022 will be the 30th Anniversary of the LDC. He recommends contacting some of the old LDC alumni to see if they could join us. Some members suggested having little cupcakes to show during a Zoom meeting. Others suggested holding up "Happy Anniversary" cards. Any ideas out there? Let me know.
9. Steve presented two items from the news. In the first item, lightning reportedly killed over 500 sheep on Mt. Abul in the Nintosminda region of southern Georgia, a republic of the former Soviet Union. Officials said they have yet to verify lightning was the cause. One sheep is worth approximately \$113, which translates to a loss of least \$56500 (500 sheep). In the second item, a truck was set afire in Arizona after it was struck by lightning. The man was storing 9mm ammunition in the truck when it was hit.
10. Shirley Terry said the EMSAC conference will be held in person in Keystone, Colorado sometime this November. She also said the EMS Safety Summit will be held on April 6-8, 2022. She does not know yet if lightning will be a featured topic at the summit.
11. 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.

12. 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.
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: Zoom meeting. Friday, October 8, 2021, from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM MDT.

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.

Wenzel, J., 2021: Nashville Fire: 2 Struck by Lightning at Elementary School. *News 4 Nashville*. August 18, 2021. Link: https://www.wsmv.com/news/nashville-fire-2-struck-by-lightning-at-elementary-school/article_ddf9d060-004f-11ec-84a8-337e6ffd91c7.html?block_id=998344

Breslow, J., 2021: 2 Horses, Mule Killed by Lightning Strike in Crossville. *WKRN-TV*. August 18, 2021. Link: <https://www.wkrn.com/news/2-horses-mule-killed-by-lightning-strike-in-crossville/>

KNXV Staff, 2021: Arizona Man's Truck Goes Up In Flames After Lightning Strike. *TheDenverchannel.com*. August 18-19, 2021. Link: <https://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/national/arizona-mans-truck-goes-up-in-flames-after-lightning-strike>

2021: Lightning Strike Kills More Than 500 Sheep in South Georgia. *Agenda.ge*. August 12, 2021. Link: <https://agenda.ge/en/news/2021/2299>
