

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

February 11, 2022
ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL
www.lightningdatacenter.org

HAPPY 30th ANNIVERSARY, LDC!

Monthly Quote: “When time allows, I write about where we all live – the atmosphere.” Source: Anthony R. Wood, Journalist, The Philadelphia Inquirer, February 11, 2022.

Members present: Clark, Swanson, Langford, Terry, Stemple, and Yarnell. Meeting began at 11:45 AM and ended at 1:05 PM.

1. **VERY IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ!** As of February 2022, we will continue to hold meetings via Zoom only. Here in Colorado, the number of COVID cases has fallen. Hospitalizations remain high but are falling. Fatalities have also declined. The Omicron variant of COVID is still the dominant strain of the virus. Indoor mask mandates in the Denver area are being lifted for most places, but some locations still require use of masks.
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 \$1082.00 in cash.
3. We discussed changing the name of the LDC to Lightning & Electric Shock Data Center. Ken Langford suggested we keep the LDC name until the group can get some electric shock experts into the group. He said until we get those people attending meetings, we would effectively be claiming expertise in electric shock, when none of us have any. Those present agreed.
4. In the July 2020 minutes, we noted the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) certified two records for lightning megaflashes, one for the distance and the other for the duration. The old records were 440.6 +/- 5 miles over portions of Brazil in October 2018 for the distance and 16.73 seconds over Argentina in March 2019 for duration. Those records have been broken. The new records are for distance: 477.2 +/- 5 miles over the southern United States on April 29, 2020 and for duration: 17.102 +/- 0.002 seconds over Uruguay and northern Argentina on June 18, 2020. Since the certification of these megaflashes is still in its infancy, records will still be set over relatively short time periods, but will become fewer and farther between as time passes.
5. The interview with Dr. Mikhail Shmatov is in the LDC website under the Meteorology tab.
6. The 36th International Conference on Lightning Protection will be held on October 2-7, 2022 in Cape Town, South Africa. For more information, visit their website at <https://iclp2022.org/>.

7. The man who was injured after accidentally urinating on his cellphone is still looking for answers.
8. This meeting celebrated the 30th anniversary of the LDC. Ken put together a short presentation of some of the highlights of the LDC. We saw some photos of members from past meetings and gatherings and we had a tough time trying to remember the names of some of the folks in those meetings! Welcome to advancing age!
9. Carl Swanson reports he has a total of 90 agencies participating in his First Responder Data Collection effort, with 68 agencies in Colorado and 22 in Tennessee.
10. The Lightning Strike & Electric Shock Survivors International group will be holding “Virtual Support Group 2022”, a Zoom meeting on March 19 from 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM MDT. The flyer is attached to these minutes. Please read it for instructions on how to sign up. Dr. Katy Maher, a clinical psychologist, will discuss survivor PTSD.
11. We saw a preview of an ad on YouTube for Wallbox that was run during the Super Bowl. The ad is labeled “Can Seth Embrace Electricity?”. Wallbox is a means of charging your electric car. The ad begins with a reconstruction of a man who was hit by lightning who then develops some fears and some odd work-arounds in his dealings with electricity. The ad appears to poke fun at some of the sensations and fears that survivors have. Thankfully, the ad that played during the Super Bowl was shortened significantly. During the game, the ad appeared during the two-minute warning before halftime. It briefly acknowledged survivors’ concerns about electricity after being hit and quickly moved on to his embracement of electricity. We discussed how some survivors are sensitive to their electromagnetic environment. Phil recalled how some survivors could detect the presence of a “plasma ball” without seeing it.

On February 11, the National Lightning Safety Council issued a press release highlighting these concerns and expressed hope the ad would increase awareness and encourage discussion about the dangers of lightning. The Philadelphia Enquirer ran an article on the ad on February 11.

12. The Geostationary Lightning Mapper (GLM) onboard the GOES-16 and GOES-17 satellites are finding more than just lightning. In 2018, they found the GLM could also detect bolides (meteor fireballs) entering earth’s atmosphere. The GLM samples transient light at 500 frames per second and can detect bolides from 4 inches to about 9 feet in diameter. When a bolide is detected, it is seen in stereo vision which enables scientists to estimate the path of the bolide. The detection of bolides helped solve the mystery of “sonic booms” in the Pittsburgh, PA area.
13. 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.

14. 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.
15. 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.
16. Next meeting: Zoom meeting. Friday, March 11, 2022, 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.

World Meteorological Organization, 2022: WMO Certifies Two Megaflash Lightning Records. Press Release #01022022. *World Meteorological Organization*. February 1, 2022.

Link: <https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/wmo-certifies-two-megaflash-lightning-records>

Pratt, S., 2022: Looking for Lightning, Finding Fireballs. *NASA Earth Observatory*. January 2022.

Link: <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/images/149381/looking-for-lightning-finding-fireballs>

YouTube Video: Can Seth Embrace Electricity?

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzcdP90akWM>

National Lightning Safety Council Press Release, 2022: Super Bowl Commercial Highlights Lightning's Danger and Lasting Impact on Survivors. Send2Press Newswire. February 11, 2022.

Link: <https://www.send2press.com/wire/super-bowl-commercial-highlights-lightnings-danger-and-lasting-impact-on-survivors/>

Wood, A. 2022: Super Bowl Commercial Sparks Concerns Among Lightning-Safety Experts. Philadelphia Inquirer. February 11, 2022.

Link: <https://www.inquirer.com/news/super-bowl-ad-lightning-wallbox-20220211.html>

