

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

June 10, 2022

ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL

www.lightningdatacenter.org

Monthly Quote: “Beckowitz said she and her husband had just left the living room when they saw a white light and heard a boom ‘like a bomb went off next to her ear.’”

Source citation in Lightning Links section below.

Members present: Clark, Gift, Coomer, Terry, Swanson, Crow, Stemple, Schmidt and Yarnell.
Meeting began at 11:45 PM and ended at 12:50 PM.

1. 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. LDC currently has \$1182.00 in cash.
2. TRIP TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK – UPDATED. Coleen Crow said she can get passes into Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP). The date ranges for the hike are July 18-22 and July 25-29. From the set of dates given, what first and second date would you most be interested in? The reason a second date is being requested is so we have a “Plan B” in case the first date cannot be done due to weather or some other reason. Please reach out to Coleen at 719-237-0805 or via e-mail at coleencrowcc@gmail.com. The last date to respond is June 27 because Coleen needs to plan her summer vacation.

Coleen thinks it best to head out from the trailhead by either 9 or 10 AM, but no later. The hike is expected to take approximately 2 hours round-trip: about 45 minutes uphill to the site where she was hit, about 30 minutes for “show and tell” and then a little less than 45 minutes back down to the trailhead, which is the Colorado River Trailhead located on the west side of RMNP. From the east gate of RMNP, allow 1.5 to 2 hrs to the trailhead. From the Grand Lake gate (west side) of RMNP, allow approximately 30 minutes to the trailhead.

3. One of our members, Kevin Schmidt, is a ham radio operator in Denver. During a ham radio net discussion, two questions were posed to him. Question 1: “Does transmitting on an amateur radio station (at a home location) with a wire antenna or tower antenna increase the propensity of causing a lightning strike?” In other words, does the radio frequency signal transmission increase the chance of attraction of lightning to the transmitting antenna? Question 2: Along the same lines, are there any reports of a radio operator being struck by lightning from lightning striking their antenna and conducted into their radio station via their coax?

Carl Swanson recalled lightning hit the antenna on the roof at the 9News studio in Denver and shocked someone on the inside. We also discussed this in the context of cellphones. Previous discussion on this subtopic found no direct evidence of an increase in the potential of lightning striking a cellphone due to the presence of a radio frequency signal. Barb remembers there were three cases of people struck while using a cellphone. We also discussed lightning strikes on 911 dispatch centers and similar facilities. Steve remembered at least one case of a 911 call center being hit and the operator was hurt. Barb Stemple was hit while on an old-fashioned telephone switchboard when lightning hit and blew out the switchboard. Interestingly, she had not recalled this incident until this topic of discussion came up.

4. Dr. Phil Yarnell asked if electric shock survivors have sensitivity to storms or electric fields like lightning survivors. He recalled an incident where a person had touched a downed power pole during a storm and subsequently had storm sensitivity. Carl suggested we ask electric shock survivors within LS&ESSI if they have this condition.
5. Phil asked what the voltage is for a lightning strike. Steve Clark said the voltage is dependent upon the length of the lightning channel, since lightning is a by product of breakdown voltage, which is approximately 30000 volts/centimeter. A typical flash has about 300 million volts.
6. LDC welcomes your 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Next meeting: St. Anthony Hospital. Friday, July 8, 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.

Fromm, C., 2022: WATCH: Arvada Home Struck by Lightning, Caught on Doorbell Camera. *KDVR-TV*. May 30-31, 2022. Link: <https://kdvr.com/news/local/watch-arvada-home-struck-by-lightning-caught-on-doorbell-camera/>

Tomasic, M. and A. Aiken, 2022: Teen Injured, Houses Damaged in North Huntingdon After Lightning Strike, Officials Say. *Trib Total Media*. May 16, 2022. Link: <https://triblive.com/local/westmoreland/one-person-injured-in-north-huntingdon-after-lightning-strike-officials-say/>