

# LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

March 10, 2023

ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL, LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

Monthly Quote: “Never cut a tree down in the wintertime. Never make a negative decision in the low time. Never make your most important decisions when you are in your worst moods. Wait. Be patient. The storm will pass. The spring will come.” - Robert H. Schuller

Source: <https://tickledthink.com/60-inspirational-quotes-about-storms/>

Members present: Clark, Swanson and Yarnell. Meeting began at 11:50 AM and ended at 12:15 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 \$837.00 in cash.
2. On February 24, 2023, a plane carrying the Los Angeles Clippers basketball team from Los Angeles to Denver was struck by lightning about 1 minute after takeoff. Passengers noted the engines momentarily went quiet for a period before firing up again. When they arrived in Denver, inspection of the plane showed a clear lack of paint on part of its tail.
3. The July 2020 minutes mentioned the World Meteorological Organization recognizing two new lightning records: the greatest distance of a single flash and the longest duration lightning flash. Those records are still in place today. A short article appeared in the March 2023 edition of the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* which discussed some of the technology used to capture the records and posed questions for future research. Using a combination of GOES-16 Geostationary Lightning Mapper (GLM) images and a piece of software called CIERRA, researchers were able to identify multiple megaflashes. So far, megaflashes have been found in Mesoscale Convective Systems (MCS) in the Great Plains of the United States and in the La Plata basin in southeastern South America. Some of the questions being asked are: Why do some MCSs generate megaflashes and others do not? What are the physical differences between megaflashes occurring over land versus those over the ocean? How will a warming climate affect megaflash production? In addition, the relationship between the megaflashes and so-called “superbolts” is poorly understood. A superbolt is lightning that is more optically intense and 100 times more powerful than ordinary lightning. More research is needed to understand the optical emissions from superbolts.

4. Dr. Phil Yarnell presented an article from the *New York Times* describing a new room-temperature superconductor. A team of researchers made the announcement earlier this week. If this is a genuine discovery, it offers the potential to revolutionize the electrical and electronics industries. Superconductors have been around for awhile but they could only operate at temperatures well below freezing, making them impractical for daily use. This team of researchers making the announcement is under intense scrutiny. A similar announcement was made in 2020 by the same team which was to be published in the journal *Nature*, but the article was retracted after some of the data used in making the announcement was called into question. This current announcement will also need to be examined by the scientific community.
5. Steve Clark will order lightning data for Cynthia Weiss' case which was presented last month. Her case will be presented at the April meeting.
6. LDC was saddened to learn of the passing of one of its members. Bobby Coomer passed away shortly before last month's meeting. He had been admitted to the hospital in late January and passed away about a week later. Bobby became involved with the LDC after being struck by lightning while on the patio of his condo and attended the meetings in person at the hospital.
7. FYI – An Announcement. I anticipate hosting most of, if not all LDC meetings from home via Zoom in the future. The one exception will be the meeting to honor Dr. Cherington which will be held at the hospital this June.
8. LDC welcomes your 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.
9. Questions, comments, error notifications, and critiques of these minutes are welcome. Please send them to Steve Clark. Please keep the communications professional and respectful. They will be forwarded to the appropriate author(s) of the minutes and addressed accordingly.
10. 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.
11. Next meeting: Friday, April 14, 2023, 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.**

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Lawson-Freeman, C., 2023: Clipper's Plane Struck by Lightning Ahead of OT Loss to Nuggets in Unreal NBA Season. Yahoo Sports as found in *AOL.com*. February 27, 2023.

Link: <https://www.aol.com/sports/clippers-plane-struck-lightning-ahead-174310358.html>

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Peterson, M., 2023: The Americas' Mightiest Megaflashes – A Look at Where the Most Extraordinary Lightning Occurs. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*. March 2023. Full citation: <https://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-20-0178.1>

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Chang, K., 2023: New Room-Temperature Superconductor Offers Tantalizing Possibilities. New York Times. March 8, 2023. Link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/08/science/room-temperature-superconductor-ranga-dias.html>

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