

# LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

November 10, 2023

ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL, LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

Monthly Quote: “There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad choices in clothing.” - Old Norse Proverb.

Members present: Clark, Langford, Crow, Swanson and Yarnell. Meeting began at 11:50 AM and ended at 1:00 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. A check for \$500 was sent to Barb Stemple to help offset the costs for the printing of our lightning safety brochures. LDC currently has \$242.00 in cash.
2. A free lightning documentary titled “Most Powerful Forces on Earth: Lightning | Fatal Forecast | Free Documentary” has been posted to YouTube. Click [here](#) to watch it. This is a good, up-to-date introduction to lightning intended for the layperson. Much of what is presented in this video is material that has been addressed in previous LDC meetings. Thanks to Rick O’Keefe for letting us know about this.
3. In the July 2023 minutes, it was noted that LDC member Barbara Brewer brought to the attention of the LDC a research paper which proposes an evidence-based protocol for the treatment of the lightning patient. This last October, Steve Clark reached out to the corresponding author, Rick van Ruler, to present the paper at an LDC meeting. He said he might be able to present it in December’s meeting, but he will not know until late November.
4. In November 2015, we met with a lightning survivor, Donna Saleminck, who was introduced to us by Dr. Phil Yarnell. Recently, she was interviewed on Pittsburgh’s National Public Radio station WESA 90.5 FM. The transcript and the audio from the interview can be found [here](#).
5. Steve Clark announced the LDC is no longer a standing committee with St. Anthony Hospital. The hospital is presently transitioning from one corporate parent (Centura) to another (CommonSpirit). Steve wondered if the LDC should consider starting its own 501c organization. Ken Langford suggested the LDC should consider affiliating with a different institution. Dr. Phil Yarnell said LDC should seek to maintain the relationship with St. Anthony, since the hospital is a resource for acutely injured patients. Phil suggested we should draft a letter to whomever is the director of surgery, who replaced Charles Mains. A letter will be prepared per Phil’s advice.

6. The gentleman we met with last month does not need any lightning data for his claim. There have been multiple inspections made of his vessel and the vast majority of them concluded that lightning hit the boat.
7. Phil aid the Lightning Strike & Electric Shock Survivors International (LS&ESSI) held an in-person and virtual conference on November 2-4, 2023. As these minutes went to press, there were no postings from this conference on the LS&ESSI website.
8. Barb Stemple said she had back surgery a month ago and is now feeling some tingles in different parts of her body. Episodes are very short and she feels like she is being bitten. Phil said it could be areas that were weak before.
9. This past summer, Ken worked with Daile Zhang, co-author with Ron Holle of *Flashes of Brilliance: The Science and Wonder of Arizona Lightning*. A Raspberry Pi camera was installed inside the north facing windows of his home in order to record active thunderstorms visually for comparison with lightning detection data. These comparisons are intended to validate "ground truth" for lightning detection systems. The camera records video at 90 frames per second, with a text display recorded into the image. The text displays the date and time of day as calibrated to the internet, as well as each frame having a unique number for easy reference. Once the video is recorded it is uploaded to a Google drive for review and logging by students and scientists at the University Of Maryland, after which the comparisons are made with Vaisala lightning data and NOAA's satellite lightning data. As of press time, the comparisons are still being performed.
10. LDC welcomes your questions. Please send them via e-mail to Steve Clark at [sclarkoto@gmail.com](mailto:sclarkoto@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 any answers given 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 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.
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: Friday, December 8, 2023, from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM MST.

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.**

Pereira, I., 2023: 1 Killed, 4 Injured in Fountain Electrocution Incident at Florida Shopping Center. *ABC News via AOL News*. October 23, 2023. Link: <https://www.aol.com/more-details-emerge-off-duty-134800171.html>

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2023: Most Powerful Forces on Earth: Lightning | Fatal Forecast | Free Documentary. *Free Documentary Channel*. August 30, 2023. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FUFxpWiw-Y>

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