

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

July 12, 2024

ST. ANTHONY HOSPITAL, LAKEWOOD, COLORADO

Monthly Quote: “It was unreal, like a ball with tentacles.” - An unnamed witness to a lightning strike at the Lake George, Colorado gymkhana. *Pikes Peak Courier*, July 8, 2024.

Members present: Clark, Crow, Yarnell and Stemple. Meeting began at 11:45 AM and ended at 12:35 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 \$347.00 in cash.
2. The 2024 International Conference on Lightning & Static Electricity will take place on September 9-12, 2024 in Campinas, Sao Paulo, Brazil. The last chance to register is August 31, 2024. Online registration is available at: <https://icolse2024-indico.feeunicamp.br/event/2/>.
3. Part of the LDC website under the medical tab is still under construction. Activity has been paused as Steve Clark has business activities that need tending to. The remainder of the website is still fully functional.
4. On Saturday, June 22, three people were struck and injured by lightning at the Travelers Championship at the TPC River Highlands Golf Course in Cromwell, Connecticut. Per the National Weather Service, two people were taken to a hospital and a third person refused treatment. The lightning had struck a tree near the 5th hole at around 4:30 PM.
5. On Saturday, June 29, four people were injured by lightning while attending an outdoor concert at Milan Dragway in Milan Township, Michigan. All four were examined on-site and two of them were taken to the University of Michigan hospital for observation overnight and then released the next day.
6. Robert Gift brought this to our attention. A Colorado teenager, Jesse Hamric, died by a possible electrocution while vacationing at Smith Mountain Lake in Virginia over the July 4 holiday. Friends saw Jesse was in the lake and needed help, so they jumped into the water and were shocked also. Hamric was pulled out of the water and CPR was attempted, but he died later at the hospital. The coroner’s office has not yet released an official cause of death and the incident is under investigation.

7. A man was struck and killed by lightning at a New Jersey beach while trying to warn others on the beach of the impending storm. The incident occurred on Sunday, June 23, 2024 at Seaside Park Beach. The man had gone to his truck with his girlfriend and then went back to warn the others, despite her pleas to not go. When he did not come back to the truck in 15 minutes, she went to the beach and found him unconscious. EMTs performed CPR. He was taken to a hospital and was pronounced dead. Ironically, park officials had purchased a \$50,000 lightning detection system in April which was slated to be installed on the following Wednesday.
8. The June 2024 edition of The African Flash said lightning protection has been installed at the Mulabana Primary School, which is the 8th school to be protected by the ACLEnet. Next school? Bumangi Primary School (funds permitting). Both schools are on Kalangala Island on the western side of Lake Victoria, which has an extreme lightning density. "Lightning hits the square kilometer they live on two or more times every year on average...". One square kilometer is approximately 0.6 mile X 0.6 miles.
9. Dr. Phil Yarnell attended the annual conference of the Lightning Strike & Electric Shock Survivors International group which was held on June 27-29, 2024. Phil said the most interesting thing for him was learning that ferning patterns (Lichtenberg figures) on the human body produced by electrical shock have been documented and photographed. Previously, lightning was thought to be the only way to get ferning on the body; however, there are two cases documented in the literature where ferning had been produced by man-made electricity. Phil also heard a talk from a woman who engages in what is called cognitive meditation as a therapy to treat pain, with the idea of reducing the need for drugs.
10. Coleen Crow sent us an article from the editor of the Colorado Springs Gazette who wrote about four close calls with lightning over his lifetime in the Colorado Springs area, after reading an article about a lightning strike on June 29 at the Lake George gymkhana. Lake George is a small town approximately 31 miles to the west-northwest of Colorado Springs, Colorado. After one event had ended and the other was to begin, lightning hit the electrical outlet of an announcer's booth and also split a tree. The charge apparently traveled through the panels surrounding the arena. Anyone who was in contact with the panel was knocked to the ground, including a 10-year old boy who was sitting on a fence. Multiple people were affected. Some people were evaluated on-scene and others went to the ER on their own. Injuries were deemed to be minor and were mostly burns and bruises. No horses were injured and there were no fatalities.
11. UPDATE: Following the meeting, Steve Clark received an e-mail from Captain Shayne Ellis, who was struck by lightning while working on a boat in the Bahamas. He informed me that he and Randy Price, who we met last month, had a conversation that lasted about 1.5 hours. Both have very similar issues. Additionally, their wives had a conversation about what they are going through. Hopefully, these conversations will be beneficial to all involved.

12. 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 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. Next meeting: Friday, August 9, 2024, 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.

Speck, E., 2024: 3 Injured by Lightning at the Travelers Championship in Connecticut. *Fox Weather*. June 23, 2024. Link: <https://www.foxweather.com/weather-news/lightning-golf-travelers-championship-connecticut>

Staff Reporters, 2024: Lightning Strikes Concert at Milan Dragway, 4 Evaluated for Injuries. *The Monroe News*. July 1, 2024. Link: <https://www.monroenews.com/story/news/local/2024/07/01/lightning-injures-4-milan-mi-dragway-dragway/74272240007/>

Randazzo, T., 2024: Bedford Sheriff Identified SMR Electrocutation Victim as 10-Year-Old from Colorado. *WXFR-TV and KDVR-TV*. July 5, 2024. Link: <https://kdvr.com/news/local/colorado-man-dies-after-possible-electrocutation-at-virginia-lake/>

Randazzo, T., 2024: Colorado Teen Jesse Hamric Remembered by Friends After Accident at Smith Mountain Lake. *WXFR-TV and KDVR-TV*. July 9-10, 2024. Link: <https://www.wfxrtv.com/smith-mountain-lake/colorado-teen-jesse-hamric-remembered-by-friends-after-accident-at-smith-mountain-lake/>

Saurer, R., 2024: Recent Steamboat Springs Graduate Dies in Virginia Lake Accident. *KDVR-TV*. July 5 and 8, 2024. Link: <https://kdvr.com/news/local/recent-steamboat-springs-graduate-dies-in-virginia-lake-accident/>

Sylla, Z. and K. Nichols, 2024: Man Killed by Lightning Strike on Beach While Warning Others of Incoming Storm, Police Say. *CNN*. June 26, 2024. Link: <https://www.cnn.com/2024/06/26/us/new-jersey-beach-lightning-strike-death/index.html>

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Lindford, A., S. Juteau, V. Jaks, M. Klaas, H. Lagus, J. Vuola and E. Kankuri, 2021: Case Report: Unraveling the Mysterious Lichtenberg Figure Skin Response in a Patient With a High-Voltage Electrical Injury. *Frontiers of Medicine*, June 11, 2021. Link: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8226253/pdf/fmed-08-663807.pdf>

Supplementary material for the above article is available at:
<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmed.2021.663807/full#supplementary-material>

Arnould, J. and R. Le Floch, 2011: Lichtenberg Figures Associated With a High-Voltage Industrial Burn. *Burns*. (2011) 37:e13-5 doi: 10.1016/j.burns.2010.11.014. Abstract not available.

Fitzgerald, D., 2024: It's Not Fun Being a Lightning Magnet. *Colorado Springs Gazette*. July 10, 2024. Link: <https://daily.gazette.com/article/282501483849118>

Mogon, M., 2024: Lightning Strike Creates Havoc at Lake George Gymkhana. *Pikes Peak Courier*. July 8, 2024. Link: https://gazette.com/pikespeakcourier/lightning-strike-creates-havoc-at-lake-george-gymkhana/article_28299330-37e0-11ef-ac34-efec32a30610.html
