

Quote of the Month:

"While science may not be certain in its knowledge of all matters, scientific probability can be measured fairly accurately. When the scientific probability approaches mathematical certainty, a layman should accept the conclusion which the technical professional worker has reached."

George Hyslop

1. Meeting began at 11:30 am and adjourned at 2:00 pm.
2. Members present: Bergschneider, Breed, Cherington, S. Clark, Hodge, Keen, Kithil, Larson, Yarnell.
3. Introduction: Rich Kithil introduced our newest member, George E. Hodge. George is a forensic specialist whose work includes evaluating problems related to lightning damage. He also has expertise in photographing lightning.
4. Kevin Bergschneider presented his cover page which includes features of our logo, a remarkable facsimile of lightning, and our name, Lightning Data Center. Ron Larson suggested our name be changed to Lightning Injury Data Center. He argued that much of our efforts have been in the medical area and relate to injuries of people. Others expressed the opinion that our group is a multi-discipline one with many member working in areas of atmospheric research, lightning protection, lightning detection, demographics, golf-related lightning matters, climatology, etc. Our group may involve itself with these areas now and in the future. It was agreed, therefore, that our name is appropriate and will not be changed.

Kevin's cover will be found soon on a booklet which will contain our minutes since the beginning of our group. It will also contain a directory of our members. Hopefully, this material will be distributed at our next meeting.

5. We agreed that an outdoor picnic be planned for our members and their family and friends. Steve Clark agreed to look into finding a time and place and report back next month. He will inquire if a city park permit is required. Several members suggested that the second or third week in September be chosen.
6. I distributed the following materials:
  - a. Syllabus and other literature presented at the conference on Lightning and the Mountains which I attended in Chamonix, France last month. I reported on my observations of the conference, my meeting with our "pen pals", Dr. Mary Ann Cooper and Dr. Chris Andrews. It was good to meet them and others, Dr. Phil Krider, Dr. Kitagawa, Dr. Ten Dius, etc. These meetings were very positive and strengthen our efforts in mutually important projects in the future.

b. Posters which I just received from Ron Holle and Kenneth Howard of NOAA entitled: Lightning Danger. The message and the photography are powerful. An inset photo was taken by Ken Langford.

I reported that a Steering Committee, consisting of Drs. Andrews, Cooper, ten Dius, and Cherington was formed to proceed with efforts to create a "medical meeting" as part of ICAE 96 in Japan.

Chris Andrews suggested the title of our section be: Keraunomedicine 96. I distributed facsimile transmissions from Dr. Cooper and Dr. Andrews regarding these matters to our members for their comments. We shall discuss this more at our next meeting.

7. Ron Larson presented a flyer regarding a book on Aircraft safety as regards lightning co-authored by Rod Perala. Ron also reported that he has invited three scientists whose work involves lightning phenomena to join our group. They include Dr. Heinz Kassemir, who had done work on triggered lightning, and Dr. Lars Weyland. They may be able to join us at our next meeting.

8. Rich Kithil demonstrated a new lightning detector device which is built into a unit to protect electrical equipment. This unit not only turns off equipment during a lightning storm but also starts a backup generator. The ranges of this unit are 2 to 5 miles; and a longer range of about 20 miles.

Rich distributed materials outlining a Lightning Safety Seminar which his group presents to interested groups including the Forest Service. He discussed a Lightning Suppression System used at NASA. This system consists of overhead rods and wires. The system, named Catenary System, apparently is not 100% lightning proof as shown by a recent lightning strike within the "cone of protection" of the catenary system. Ron Larson emphasized that the "cone of protection" and the "rolling sphere" theories are of interest, but there is no 100% protection.

9. Richard Keen distributed the following materials:  
a. Article by Kotaki et al. on Global Distribution of Thunderstorm Activity, 1981  
b. Article by Changran on Temporal Fluctuations of Thunderstorms in North America

10. Steve Clark read a letter he has received from Professor Elsom inquiring about our LDC.

His address is:

Professor Derek M. Elsom  
Oxford Brocken University  
Gypsy Lane Campus  
Headington Oxford OX3 OBP  
Fax: 0865 483937

Steve will respond to his inquiry and tell him about our group and our mission.

11. Phil Yarnell brought a book, "A Match to the Heart" by

Gretel Ehrich. The author was a lightning victim who suffered damage to her sympathetic nervous system. She clearly describes her experience in this book. I had the opportunity to hear her at a book seminar session in Boulder last month. I told her about the LDC. She expressed an interest in attending our meeting at some future time when she visits Denver.

12. Rich Kithil showed us a videotape of triggered-lightning experiments produced by NASA.

13. Next meeting: Friday, August 12, 1994 at 11:30 am in Conference Room B at St. Anthony Hospital-Central.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Cherington, MD  
Chairman, LDC