

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

May 9, 2025

Monthly Quote: “If a lightning bolt is heavy enough to pass from the clouds to the earth it is certainly dangerous and should be avoided if possible.” Pullman Herald, October 16, 1914

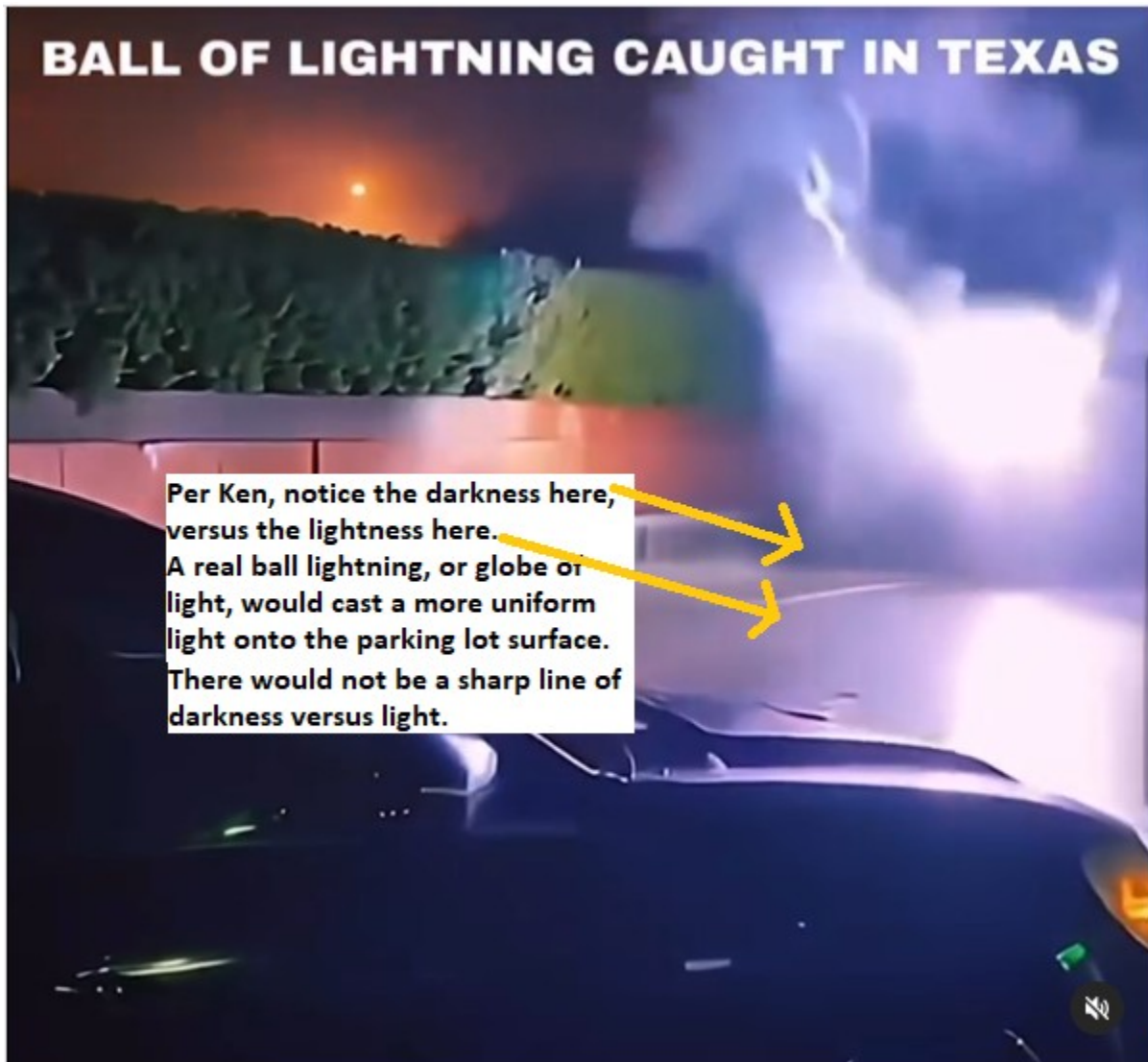
Members present: Clark, Yarnell, Brewer and Langford. Meeting began at 11:45 AM and ended at 12:40 PM.

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. The LDC currently has \$847.00 in cash.
2. A big “Thank You” is due to Ken Langford chairing the April meeting while I was away on my cruise. I also want to thank Ken for helping me relocate the LDC library from St. Anthony Hospital to my residence. At the present, I am taking inventory of our holdings and weeding out duplicate and unnecessary items. I will keep the membership posted on my progress.
3. In separate incidents, two men were struck and killed by lightning while fishing.

On April 22, 2025, a man was killed by lightning while fishing at the Ross Barnett Reservoir in Rankin County, Mississippi. Police responded after hearing of an abandoned boat near a launch. A witness said the man was preparing to head out onto the water as a storm was approaching. Some fishing gear was found on the launch. The man was found dead in the water.

On April 11, 2025, a man was out fishing with his child and two friends when he was struck by lightning and thrown into the water. He was pulled back into the boat but he was not responsive. CPR was administered by one friend while the other took the party to the Northeast Creek Park boat ramp, where they met EMS personnel. The man was taken to the hospital and later pronounced dead.

4. Barbara Brewer mentioned a video of a reported fireball in Texas. After seeing the video, Ken Langford questioned if the video showed a real ball of light. In the video, the alleged ball of light is seen moving around in a parking lot with streamers touching the parking lot surface. Ken thinks this is not ball lightning because of the shadowing seen in the video. Per Ken, had this been real ball lightning, the light emanating from the ball would have illuminated the parking lot surface more uniformly. The sharp contrasts between light and dark on the parking lot surface suggests to Ken the ball of light is not ball lightning and that the video may be fake. A screenshot from the video is shown below on the next page. Here is the link to the video: https://www.instagram.com/reel/DJal_ksm5t/



5. Barbara gave us an update on Jacob's condition. His condition slowly continues to improve. For those not familiar with his case, he was struck in the chest in December 2020 while on a beach in the Florida Keys. Jacob's muscles were kept alive using neurostimulation with a device called Rise, which is made in Vienna, Austria. She was told by a doctor in Chicago that the nerves can regenerate and grow back. Thanks to these efforts, the gluts, quads and hamstrings are now functioning. They are still working on the knees down. The May 2023 LDC minutes give a good summary of Jacob's case. The family is saving medical records for future research.
6. Steve Clark gave a "Lightning 101" presentation to members of the community where he lives. Nine people attended. Since the talk, Steve has been asked about writing an article on lightning for the community newspaper. During the talk, Steve was asked questions on the threat of lightning to hearing aids, pacemakers and titanium leg and hip replacements. To our medical colleagues, are any of you aware of any lightning strikes to people with these medical devices?

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Next meeting: Friday, June 13, 2025, from 11:45 AM to 12:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steven E. Clark
President, Lightning Data Center, Denver, CO

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.

Bourne, R., 2025: Man Struck by Lightning While Fishing at the Rez. *WAPT-TV*. April 22, 2025.
Link: <https://www.wapt.com/article/man-struck-by-lightning-while-fishing-at-the-rez/64554692>

WITN Web Team, 2025: Funeral Held for State Correctional Officer Struck by Lightning in Onslow County. *WITN-TV*. April 22, 2025.
Link: <https://www.witn.com/2025/04/22/funeral-held-state-correctional-officer-struck-by-lightning-onslow-county>

VIDEO: Ball of Lightning Caught in Texas. *texas_fooddude*.
Link: https://www.instagram.com/reel/DJal_ksm5t/