

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

Denver, CO

July 11, 2025 / August 8, 2025

Monthly Quote: “The supreme deity in the Greek and Roman religions, Zeus or Jupiter, was supposed to be the manipulator of the lightning, and the person struck down by one of the fiery bolts was especially distinguished, inasmuch as he had been felled directly by the king of the gods. The dignity of the killer was reflected upon the killed. In addition to this, the opinion was quite universal that the bodies of those struck were incorruptible.” The Statesman, Aug. 29, 1908.

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. At the present, I am finished with the “main part” of the inventory of our bibliography. I am cleaning up the entries in the database. I anticipate uploading the bibliography on to the website sometime in August or September. I will keep the membership posted on my progress.

Lightning in the News & Announcements

3. On Friday, June 20, 2025, a Colorado man was struck by lightning at approximately 12:30 PM while standing ankle deep in the ocean at New Smyrna Beach, Florida. He and his wife were newlyweds enjoying their honeymoon when he was hit. Witnesses reported a blue sky at the time of the strike. He was promptly taken to the hospital and treated, but he died the next day.
4. Four Kentucky women survived a lightning strike at Marco Island in Florida. On Saturday, June 21, 2025, they were enjoying the beach when a siren went off. They knew a storm was coming and they sought shelter under a tiki hut where they were struck. All four were taken to a hospital and three of them had minor injuries. One of the survivors said she was knocked unconscious. When she regained consciousness, her head was pounding and she had trouble hearing, seeing and walking. All four were thankful to be alive and they all got lightning tattoos to commemorate the event.
5. On July 4, 2025 at St. Pete Beach in Florida, a family of three was struck while standing under an umbrella during a thunderstorm. Two adults were treated on the scene and refused additional treatment. A 17-year old girl was hospitalized and there was no information available on her condition. A witness who saw the strike from her apartment which overlooks the location of the strike said: “you could hear it, it was coming closer and closer, and then it happened,”. The witness said a bystander picked up the girl and the other two appeared to be in shock. The family’s umbrella was snapped in half and singed. There was damage to some of their other possessions. Dead gulls were also seen in the area. Media reports indicate there were other people who felt the effects of lightning that day.

6. Eight adults and twelve minors were struck by lightning on Tuesday, June 24, 2025 at Lake Murray in South Carolina. The strike occurred at about 4:43 PM per the National Weather Service. Twelve individuals were treated at a hospital for non-life-threatening injuries. Lightning struck a metal cable with buoys in a swimming area, per a report from WCBD News. Some of the injured were either holding on to the cable or swimming nearby when the lightning hit. One woman survivor described “...a loud crash...”, “...ears ringing...” and a “...numbing feeling...”. She reported sharp pains in her body. She remembered hearing “...ten minutes ETA...” and then she “...went black.”. She woke up in the hospital and had no feeling on her left side. It is unknown if any safety changes will be made.
7. An Estes Park, Colorado woman was performing fractal burning on wood using a 2000-volt microwave transformer. In a moment of distraction, her hands came into contact with the leads and she suffered a 20-second shock that severely burned her hands. She tried to scream, remove her hands and to fall down. She could not do any of them. She ended up at the burn center at the University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora where eight surgeries and multiple skin grafts were done. She was there for six weeks. Afterwards, she began to learn how to climb again and had her first climb a little over a year after the shock. She has written a book about her experience titled “Climbing Through: A Story of Grit, Healing and Second Chance.”
8. An Olympic skier from Norway who won a bronze medal at the 2010 Vancouver Games, was killed by lightning on July 15, 2025. He was on a trip to the family cabin during the weekend when he was struck. No further details were available.
9. A new megaflash lightning record has been set. From archived satellite data, the flash was detected during a storm in October 2017, which extended from Texas to Missouri. The distance was 515 miles, 38 miles greater than the previous record.
10. The Lightning Strike & Electric Shock Survivors International group will be holding their Late Summer Conference in Tucson, Arizona on September 11-13, 2025 at the Courtyard Scottsdale Old Town. For more information, visit their website at www.lsessi.org.
11. Steve Clark wrote a “Lightning 101” article for a community newspaper that is circulated in the age-restricted community that he lives in. Mr. Clark will also give a “Lightning 101” presentation via Zoom in September to a mostly 55 and older crowd that resides mostly in the Portland, Oregon area.

July 11, 2025 Meeting

Members present: Clark and Crow. Meeting began at 11:45 AM and ended at 12:25 PM.

This meeting was mostly “catching up” for the two of us since we had not seen each other for a while.

August 8, 2025 Meeting

Members present: Clark, Crow, Yarnell, Stemple, Wachtel and Terry. Meeting began at 11:45 AM and ended at 12:25 PM.

We were supposed to have met with a survivor of a lightning strike that had been referred to Dr. Phil Yarnell by Mary Ann Cooper. The survivor was unable to attend as he was not feeling well. Little is known about him except that he was lying on the sand on the beach when lightning struck in the direction of his feet. He has tremendous pain in his feet and ankles. Steve will reach out to him to learn more and to reschedule him for September's meeting.

12. Phil said the health club that he goes to is very proactive when it comes to lightning safety. People are evacuated indoors from the outdoor pool when lightning threatens and they observe the 30-minute rule before allowing people to return to the outdoor pool.
13. Howard Wachtel said the municipal pool he goes to will get people out of the pool when lightning threatens and send them outside. Once outside, the people, mostly kids, will stand under trees, taking shelter from the rain and be left out there waiting to be picked up.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. Next meeting: Friday, September 12, 2025, from 11:45 AM to 12:25 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.

Bradbury, S., 2025: Colorado Man Dies After Being Struck by Lightning on Florida Beach. *Denver Post*. June 23, 2025.

Link: <https://www.denverpost.com/2025/06/23/colorado-man-killed-lightning-strike-florida-beach/>

Price, S., 2025: Honeymoon Ends in Tragedy as Lightning Strike Claims Newlywed's Life on Florida Beach. *Fox News*. June 23, 2025.

Link: <https://www.foxnews.com/us/honeymoon-ends-tragedy-lightning-strike-claims-newlyweds-life-florida-beach>

Gillette, S., 2025: 4 Women Survive After Lightning Strikes Hut They Were Sheltering Under During Florida Storm, So They Got Matching Tattoos. *People*. June 26, 2025.

Link: <https://people.com/4-women-survive-after-lightning-strikes-hut-during-florida-storm-11760489>

Good Morning America, 2025: Lightning Strike Caught on Camera: 4 Women Narrowly Avoid Getting Struck. *ABC News*. June 24, 2025. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MlImWKRgxfU>

Breen, K., 2025: 3 Family Members Struck by Lightning on Florida Beach; 17-Year Old Hospitalized. *CBS News*. July 5, 2025.

Link: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/lightning-strike-florida-beach-st-pete-pinellas-county/>

Scripps News Group, 2025: Family Struck by Lightning on Florida Beach. *WPTV*. July 4 and 5, 2025.

Link: <https://www.wptv.com/news/region-pinellas/family-of-3-struck-by-lightning-on-st-pete-beach-teen-hospitalized-as-trauma-alert>

WFLA News Channel 8, 2025: Lightning Strikes Family on St. Pete Beach During July 4th – 17-Year-Old Hospitalized. *WFLA-TV* via YouTube. July 5, 2025.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Gx4IdHVBkM>

Ochacher, J., 2025: 20 People Injured by Lightning Strike at South Carolina Lake. *CBS News*. June 24, 2025. Link: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/injured-lightning-strike-south-carolina-lake/>

WCBD News 2 via YouTube, 2025: 20 Injured by Lightning Strike at SC Lake. *WCBD News 2*. June 25, 2025. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-hTTGUpL6k>

Popa, N., 2025: 'Everything Froze': Woman Describes Moments Lightning Strike Injured Her, Others at Lake Murray. *WIS-TV*. June 25, 2025. Link: <https://www.wistv.com/2025/06/25/everything-froze-woman-describes-moments-lightning-strike-injured-her-others-lake-murray/>

Newman, K. and H. Richardson, 2025: Electrocutation Nearly Took This Estes Park Woman's Hands. It Didn't Take Her Will to Climb Again. *Denver Post*. June 20 and 23, 2025. Link: <https://www.denverpost.com/2025/06/20/melissa-strong-electrocution-climbing-comeback-estes-park/>

Waldeck, S., 2025: New World Record! Weather Satellites Detect 515 Mile-Long Lightning Flash. *Space.com*. July 31, 2025. Link: <https://www.space.com/astronomy/earth/new-world-record-weather-satellites-detect-515-mile-long-lightning-flash>

Peterson, M., R. Albrecht, S-E Enno, R. Holle, T. Lang, T. Logan, W. Lyons, J. Montanya, S. Sharma, Y Yair, J. Losego and R. Cervený, 2025: A New WMO-Certified Single Megaflash Lightning Record Distance: 829 km (515 mi) Occurring on 22 October 2017. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*. July 31, 2025. Link: <https://journals.ametsoc.org/view/journals/bams/aop/BAMS-D-25-0037.1/BAMS-D-25-0037.1.xml>

Schad, T., 2025: Lightning Strike Kills Olympic Bronze Medalist Auden Gronvold. Norwegian skier was 49. *USA Today via AOL News*. July 18, 2025. Link: <https://www.aol.com/lightning-strike-kills-olympic-bronze-155151525.html>
