

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

Denver, CO

June 13, 2025

Monthly Quote: "I heard a loud noise and so I looked out of the window and then as soon as I looked back at my phone I see my arms light up, all my arm hairs stood up..." Cristina Vasquez

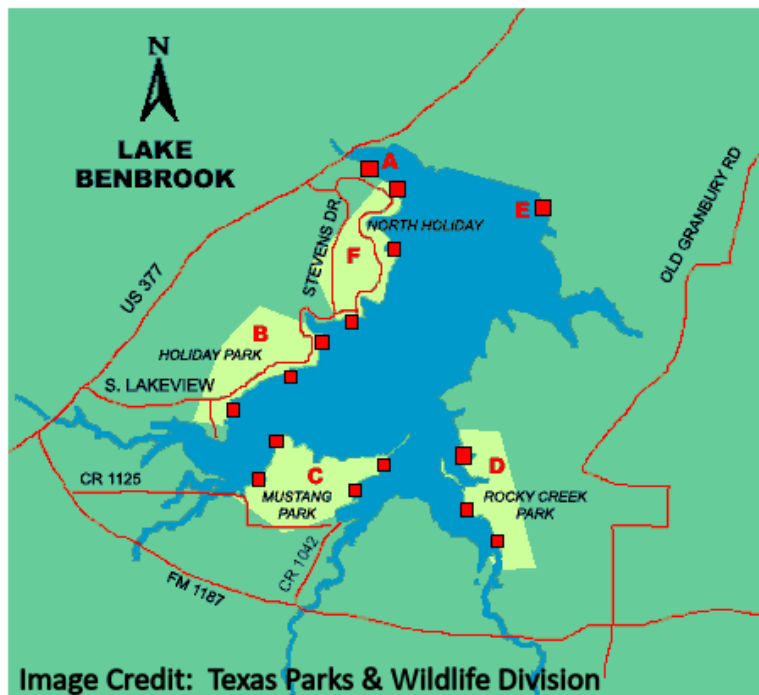
Members present: Clark, Yarnell, Brewer, Langford, Swanson and guest Eydie McDaniel.
Meeting began at 11:45 AM and ended at 12:25 PM.

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. At the present, I continue to take inventory of our bibliography and weed out duplicate and unnecessary items. Materials are being sorted alphabetically within sub areas in an effort to streamline and simplify the collection. I estimate I am about halfway done. I will keep the membership posted on my progress.
3. As the meeting was getting started, Steve Clark received a call from Bruce Beckman with Alpine Rescue Team. Two hikers were airlifted from a 14,000-foot Colorado mountain on an Army Blackhawk helicopter on Thursday night, June 12. Both were flown to a Denver area hospital and from there, one was taken to a burn unit at a different hospital. The hiker that was not burned tried to deny treatment, but hospital staff said he would be kept for observation, given his close proximity to the other hiker. Alpine Rescue Team created a web page to answer multiple media requests about the incident, which can be viewed at <https://alpinerescueteam.org/lightning-strike-on-torreys-peak/>
4. Cristina Vasquez, a woman in Colorado was shocked by lightning while looking out a window at a thunderstorm in progress. She sat by the window at the top of the house. Her sister had warned her about sitting too close to the window when the lightning hit a tree in front of the house. Part of the current came through the window and shocked her. She had been on her phone at the time. The hair on her arms stood up and the phone flew out of her hand. She reported some tingling and numbness shortly afterwards, but otherwise felt okay. 911 was called and EMS personnel found her to be okay. News footage shows the lightning hit a tree in front of the window through which she was looking. The screenshot below shows the lightning created a channel in the tree on the side which faced away from the window and tree debris was thrown in a direction away from the house.



This screenshot from KDVR-TV news footage shows the window by which Cristina was sitting at lower left. Fortunately for her, the lightning channel in the tree pointed away from the house.

5. A father and son were struck by lightning at around 5 PM while playing golf at The Bridges Golf Course in Gunter, Texas on Sunday, June 8. The father was taken to Baylor McKinney Hospital where he was in critical condition. The son was taken to Celina Methodist Hospital where he later died.
6. On Sunday, June 1, 2025, a group of 14 people were struck by lightning at Mustang Park, located along the southern side of Benbrook Lake which is located approximately 11 miles southwest of downtown Fort Worth. They were sheltering from the rain underneath a canopy.



A pickup truck was parked to help shield the canopy from the wind. Some of the 14 people were holding the canopy down by the metal bars to keep the wind from blowing it away and that is when the lightning hit. Four of the people, two adults and two children, were taken to the hospital. The two children and one of the adults were released. The other adult, Juan Reyes, was told he would need to stay another night for observation. He recalled seeing a ball of fire and smoke. One of his friends said the lightning hit him and he fell back unconscious. He remembers trying to stand up and seeing other people on the ground. Reyes was holding the canopy with his right hand when the lightning struck. He had swelling in his right forearm.

Reyes said the weather had been nice and sunny and then suddenly the wind started to blow and skies got cloudy and rain began to fall. A Facebook page from the local volunteer fire department said the strike occurred at about 6:20 PM. Radar and satellite images indicated the main part of the storm passed through the area prior to 6:20 PM.

7. WFAA-TV also covered the Reyes event above. The reporter covering that story had also reported on the lightning strike to Jacob Brewer a few years earlier. The reporter spoke with Barbara Brewer (Jacob's mom) about Jacob's continuing recovery and wrote a story that was aired in June 6, 2025. In addition, Barbara said the documentary called "Lightning Flowers" will premier this October at a film festival in Austin, Texas. The film profiles the lightning strike on Jacob, from the time he was struck and everything he and his family have gone through during his continuing recovery. Barbara is hoping to find a streaming service that will pick up the premier showing. A trailer for the film can be seen here at : <https://vimeo.com/1080196471>.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Next meeting: Friday, July 11, 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.

Easterwood, G., 2025: Denver Woman Struck by Lightning After It Hits Tree in Front of Her Window. *KDVR-TV*. May 27-28, 2025. Link: <https://kdvr.com/news/local/denver-woman-struck-by-lightning-after-it-hits-tree-in-front-of-her-window/>

Barrera, A., 2025: Four People Including Children Hospitalized After Lightning Strike at Benbrook Lake. *5 NBCDFW*. June 2, 2025. Link: <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/4034767524020-four-people-including-children-hospitalized-after-lightning-strike-at-benbrook-lake>

Lake Benbrook Map

Image source: Texas Parks and Wildlife Division

Link: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/benbrook/access.phtml>

Fullerton, A., 2025: North Texas Golfer Killed, Another Injured by Lightning Strike. *KDFW-TV*. June 11, 2025. Link: <https://www.fox4news.com/news/north-texas-golfer-killed-another-injured-lightning-strike>
