

LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

Denver, CO

September 12, 2025

Monthly Quote: “ We speak of ‘bridling the lightning,’ but we are no nearer doing this now than was the old Roman King Tullus Hostillius, who, legend has it, was struck dead because of a too inquisitive investigation of Jupiter’s thunderbolts.” The San Francisco Call. July 22, 1906

Members present: Clark, Crow, Yarnell and two lightning strike survivors. Meeting began at 11:45 AM and ended at 1:30 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 is maintained detailing the inflow and outflow of monies. The LDC currently has \$1047.00 in cash, thanks to a donation of \$200 from Whitney and Kate Sunderland.
2. At the present, I am finished with the “main part” of the inventory of our bibliography and I am currently editing the bibliography. I will keep the membership posted on my progress.
3. In the July 2025 edition of the African Flash, the International Lightning Safety Day was commemorated in Lamwo District in northern Uganda. Members from the African Centres for Lightning and Electromagnetics Network (ACLENet) visited with families who lost loved ones in a lightning strike on November 2, 2024, which killed 14 youngsters and injured 34 more. Since then, there has been bitterness and a split in the community, partly because only South Sudanese Nationals were killed and because members of other tribes survived. The coming of rain used to be greeted with joy as it meant food and water, but now the rain brings fear and painful memories, especially since there is no adequate shelter at all. None of the camp dwellings have any lightning protection capability. ACLENet is also working with the Uganda Media Center in an effort to promote lightning safety and save lives.
4. We met with two survivors. The first survivor was doing dishes at home in the northeastern US and had her hands in the dishwater when the flash occurred. The lightning struck an aluminum ladder just outside an open kitchen window and came in through the window through her arms and down her neck and feet. The survivor described it as a "beautiful blue light". The lightning felt like acid down her tongue. She was thrown down and then went outside and called her son and was told to go to the ER. Her heart stopped in the first ER but it was restarted. A transfer to a second ER was done and her heart stopped beating there too, but was revived. She had keuranoparalysis in the legs for seven days, after which the legs were functional. She has multiple post-strike issues, only a few of which are documented here. From the legs down, there is a sensation of vibration. When her cellphone vibrates, she cannot recognize it because it feels the same as the vibrations being felt from the strike. There are issues with electronic devices. She has difficulty walking, memory issues, trouble forming sentences and brain fog.

5. The second survivor was a U.S. Air Force mechanic working on the flight line when he was struck over 30 years ago. He was closing the landing gear doors when he was hit and he initially fell backward and hit the back of his head against the landing gear. The lightning blew his glasses off and a metal band in his teeth was partially debonded. Another guy in the cockpit was holding a metal window crank and was shocked when the lightning hit. This second guy saw the survivor fall face first. The survivor remembered waking up in the ER in his underwear with wires all over him (2 EKGs). He had x-rays of the head and neck, but a CT scan was not done. The survivor has many medical issues. The short listing below captures only a few of them.

His memory is like a TV screen flashing on and off.

He has joint horns and bad knees. They start to hurt when the weather changes (storms).

He was hot-tempered before the strike but now is more laid back.

He was wheel-chair bound because he could not walk.

He was diagnosed with traumatic brain injury 21 years after the strike.

Heart murmur grounded him.

He has back problems.

X-rays showed vertebrae had been fractured and that the fracturing was an old injury. The doctor would not write a report due to a lack of knowledge on lightning.

Presently, he has short-term and long-term memory issues.

He is an insulin-dependent diabetic.

His endocrine system is offline and he has thyroid problems.

He has a spinal cord stimulator for pain. It has been very helpful from the bottom of his rib cage to his feet. Prior to getting the stimulator, he was taking large doses of pain medications.

He has migraine headaches that affect the back of his head where it struck the landing gear.

He has a 4-degree forward curve in his thoracic.

He has arthritis.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.

9. Next meeting: Friday, October 10, 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.

No links this month.