

# LIGHTNING DATA CENTER MINUTES

Denver, CO

May 8, 2026

Monthly Quote: Question from Bret Lemoine, Fox 6: “Is it something that you ever even think of that you’d get struck by lightning just walking into a gas station?” Answer from Greg Suttner, a truck driver: “No not at all, especially in a place like this. There’s a lot of metal around there.”

- Source: Fox 6 News, April 17, 2026

Members present: Clark, Yarnell, Crow, Gertling and Bertram. Meeting began at 11:45 AM and ended at 12:30 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 \$889.00 in cash.
2. Our newest member, Chris Bertram, is a lightning survivor who was introduced to the LDC by Barb Stemple. He was struck on July 14, 1994 in Colorado Springs, Colorado near the intersection of Woodmen Road and N. Academy Blvd. He was flattening an asphalt roadbed while seated atop a steam roller. When asked if the steam roller had a roll cage, Chris said it did not.

He was knocked off of the roller onto the ground and was unconscious for about 1.5 minutes. A nearby co-worker had been knocked down to the ground, but was able to revive Chris until EMS arrived. Chris was wearing a necklace at the time and had third-degree burns across his chest. He showed us some dark markings on the left rear of his neck just above the height of his shoulder blades. Dr. Phil Yarnell speculated the markings might be metal fragments from the necklace embedded in his skin. A baseball cap that he was wearing had the left side blown out. A chrome-plated tape measure similar to the ones made by Stanley, was in his pocket and the chrome plating had been burned off. Chris was taken to a hospital and was in a coma for 1.5 days before he came out of it. After his stay in the hospital, CT and MRI scans were done, but it was unclear what they showed due to communication issues during the meeting. Chris' only complaint is the worsening of his short-term memory. He does not know if that is a long-term effect of the lightning strike or if it is from something more recent. Chris was asked if he had any heart issues after the strike and he said he did not. Finally, Chris said the strike was the first strike of the day. His story was published in the newspaper and was broadcast by local TV.

*NOTE: Verbal permission was obtained from Chris to use personal identifying information, per HIPAA regulations.*

3. A truck driver from Pennsylvania was struck and killed by lightning at a Kwik Trip service station in Waukesha, Wisconsin at around 7:45 PM on April 17, 2026. He was walking across the parking lot during a thunderstorm when he was hit. Another truck driver commented he did not even think of lightning striking due to the metal in the area. See the monthly quote.
4. The Lightning & Electric Survivors International (LSESSI) group will be meeting at the Staybridge Suites in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee on Friday and Saturday, May 29-30, 2026. A meet-and-greet is scheduled for Thursday evening, May 28 from 7-8 PM in the hotel lobby. For more information, visit the LSESSI website at <https://www.lightning-strike.org/>.
5. LDC welcomes your questions. Please send them via e-mail to Steve Clark at [sclarktoto@gmail.com](mailto: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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Next meeting: Friday, June 12, 2026, from 11:45 AM to TBA. Meeting topic: TBA.

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.**

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Oravetz, J. and W. Beese, 2026: Woman Struck by Lightning on Superior Walking Path Identified. *KUSA-TV*. April 10 and 11, 2026.

Link: <https://www.9news.com/article/news/local/woman-struck-lightning-superior-walking-path/73-86d5947a-efb6-48e7-8ac1-48bb6d185647?tbref=hp>

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Bohr, N., 2026: Pennsylvania Truck Driver Fatally Struck by Lightning in Waukesha. *WISN-TV*. April 17, 2026.

Link: <https://www.wisn.com/article/pennsylvania-truck-driver-fatally-struck-by-lightning-in-waukesha/71043455>

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Lemoine, B. and Fox6 Digital News Team, 2026: Man Dies, Likely Struck by Lightning in Waukesha; Walking Through Parking Lot. *Fox6 News Milwaukee*. April 17, 2026.

Link: <https://www.fox6now.com/news/waukesha-lightning-strike-man-dies-0416-26>

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Coon, A., 2026: Video Shows Tree Exploding in Aurora After It's Struck by Lightning. *KDVR-TV*. April 27, 2026.

Link: <https://kdvr.com/news/local/video-shows-tree-exploding-in-aurora-after-its-struck-by-lightning/>

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