

NWS Columbia
Skywarn Midlands Update

Tuesday, February 25, 2025

What's so great about Zello?

(Survey says: 32 responded would like to learn more; 5 responded Not interested)

Positive aspects

It's available to Hams and non-hams alike, no license is required.

Hams may not always have radio access, but everyone (generally) has a smart phone with them.

Coverage is the same as cell phone, no limited coverage, like repeaters.

The Zello application is available for Android phones and Apple phones at no charge. Be sure to sign up for the no-charge version. Avoid the version labeled as "Zello Work."

Submitting spotters reports to Skywarn Net Controls is straightforward. Be prepared to share Time, Event and Location.

We can set up a schedule to periodically practice using Zello.

The channel "SC Midlands SKYWARN" requires no password. Anyone can monitor the traffic including ARES ECs, County Emergency Managers interested in following weather traffic.

You can use Zello with other groups such as ARES, CERT, community organizations, family and friends. You can make those channels secure by adding a password if you like.

Less positive aspects

It's not real real radio.

Zello won't work if cells phones/internet are down – SOL (Slightly Out of Luck)

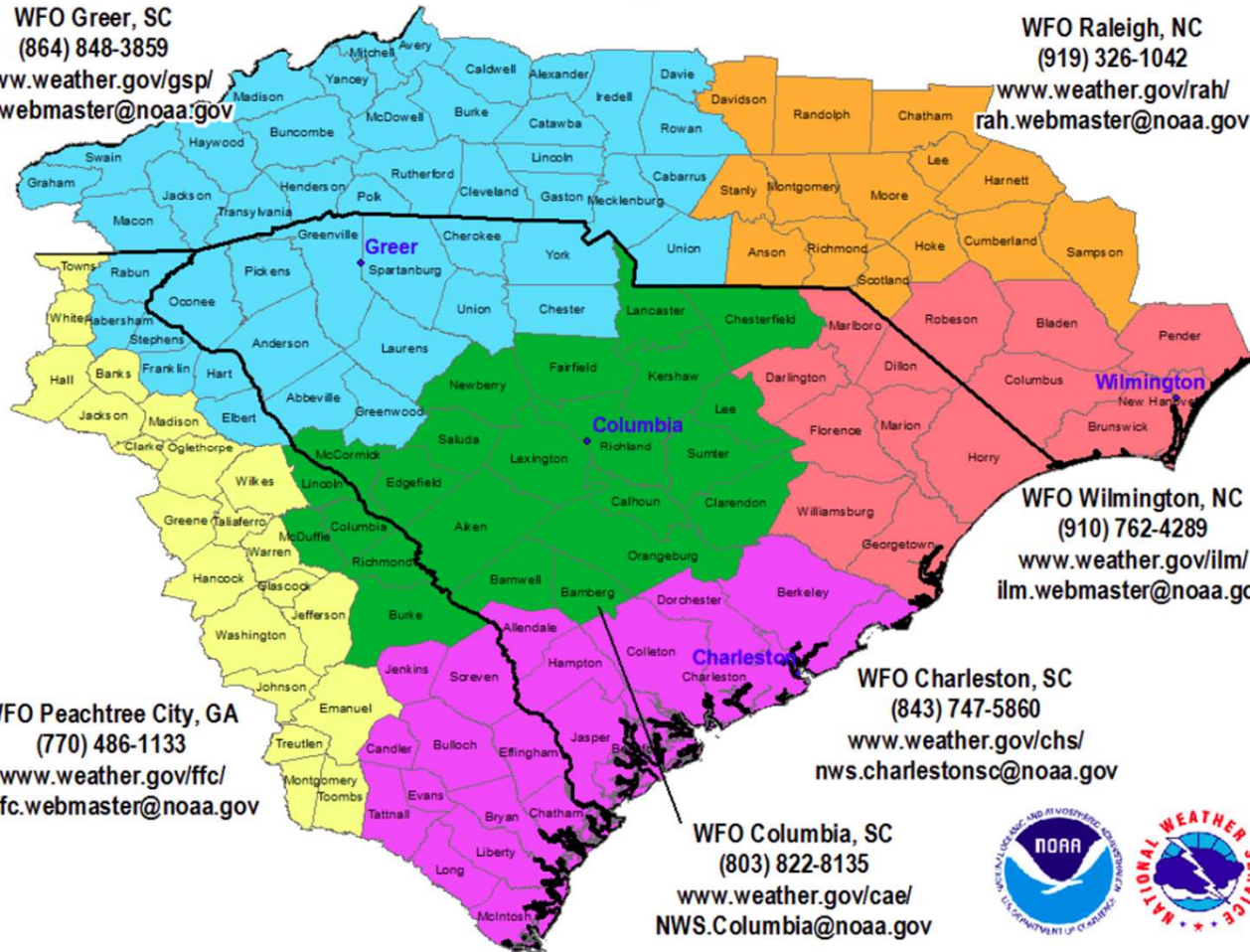
If you leave Zello open all the time, you're subject to hearing random voices. For spotters/interested others, it's best to monitor when foul weather is anticipated.

<https://www.weather.gov/cae/office.html>

National Weather Service Offices Covering South Carolina and Eastern Georgia

WFO Greer, SC
(864) 848-3859
www.weather.gov/gsp/
gsp.webmaster@noaa.gov

WFO Raleigh, NC
(919) 326-1042
www.weather.gov/rah/
rah.webmaster@noaa.gov



WFO Peachtree City, GA
(770) 486-1133
www.weather.gov/ffc/
sr-ffc.webmaster@noaa.gov

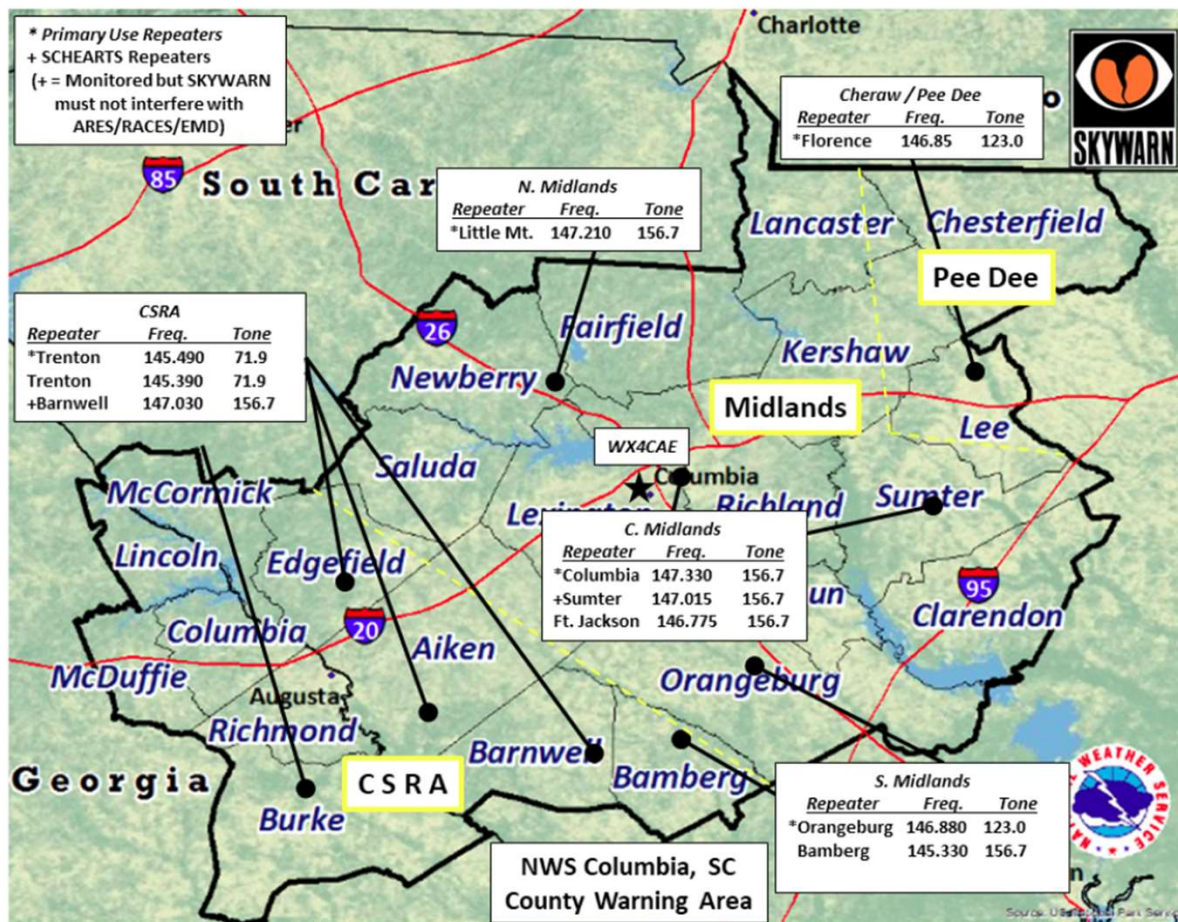
WFO Wilmington, NC
(910) 762-4289
www.weather.gov/ilm/
ilm.webmaster@noaa.gov

WFO Charleston, SC
(843) 747-5860
www.weather.gov/chs/
nws.charlestonsc@noaa.gov

WFO Columbia, SC
(803) 822-8135
www.weather.gov/cae/
NWS.Columbia@noaa.gov

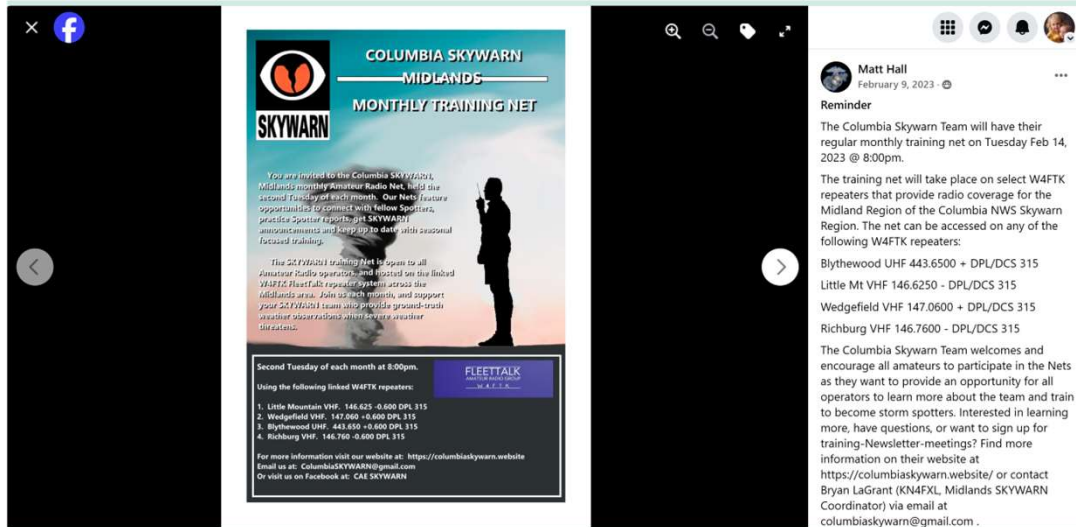


- 147.210 MHz - Little Mountain Repeater
- 145.490 MHz - Trenton Repeater
- 147.105 MHz - Bishopville Repeater
- 147.015 MHz - Sumter Repeater
- 145.450 MHz - Savannah River Site (CSRA Backup)



1	CSRA	Burke	GA			
2	CSRA	Richmond	GA			
3	CSRA	Columbia	GA			
4	CSRA	McDuffie	GA			
5	CSRA	Lincoln	GA			CSRA Coordinator
				GA	5	
6	CSRA	McCormac	SC			
7	CSRA	Edgefield	SC			James Jackson
8	CSRA	Aiken	SC			
9	CSRA	Barnwell	SC			
10	CSRA	Bamburg	SC			
				SC	5	
				CSRA	10	
11	Midlands	Lancaster	SC			
12	Midlands	Newberry	SC			
13	Midlands	Fairfield	SC			
14	Midlands	Kershaw	SC			
15	Midlands	Saluda	SC			Midlands Coordinator
16	Midlands	Lexington	SC			
17	Midlands	Richland	SC			
18	Midlands	Sumter	SC			Position VACANT
19	Midlands	Calhoun	SC			
20	Midlands	Clarendon	SC			
21	Midlands	Orangeburg	SC			
				Midlands	11	
22	Pee Dee	Chesterfield	SC			Pee Dee Coordinator
23	Pee Dee	Lee	SC			Gordon Cole
				Pee Dee	2	
				NWS Columbia	23	(5 - GA, 18 - SC)

<i>1.31.25 Update</i>							
<i>Midlands Counties' Respondents</i>			<i>Total</i>	<i>HAMS</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>HAMS</i>
<i>ARES EMA 2</i>	Lancaster		3	2		3	2
<i>ARES EMA 3</i>	Newberry		1	1		1	1
<i>ARES EMA 3</i>	Fairfield		0	0		1	1
<i>ARES EMA 3</i>	Kershaw		7	5		7	5
<i>ARES EMA 3</i>	Saluda		0	0		0	0
<i>ARES EMA 3</i>	Lexington		11	7		13	9
<i>ARES EMA 3</i>	Richland		10	9		10	9
<i>ARES EMA 5</i>	Sumter		2	2		5	5
<i>ARES EMA 3</i>	Calhoun		3	3		4	4
<i>ARES EMA 5</i>	Clarendon		0	0		3	2
<i>ARES EMA 5</i>	Orangeburg		1	0		2	1
	(11)		38	29		49	39
<i>Additional Counties' Respondents</i>			<i>Total</i>	<i>HAMS</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>HAMS</i>
	Chesterfield		2	2		2	2
	Lee		1	1		1	1
	Florence		1	1		2	2
	Greenville		1	1		1	1
<i>All Respondents</i>			43	34		55	45



The training net will take place on select W4FTK repeaters that provide radio coverage for the Midland Region of the Columbia NWS Skywarn Region. The net can be accessed on any of the following W4FTK repeaters:

Blythewood UHF 443.6500 + DPL/DCS 315

Little Mt VHF 146.6250 - DPL/DCS 315

Wedgefield VHF 147.0600 + DPL/DCS 315

Richburg VHF 146.7600 - DPL/DCS 315

Feature Search

+ = On-Air
 x = Off-Air
 ● = Testing/Reduced
 = Unknown

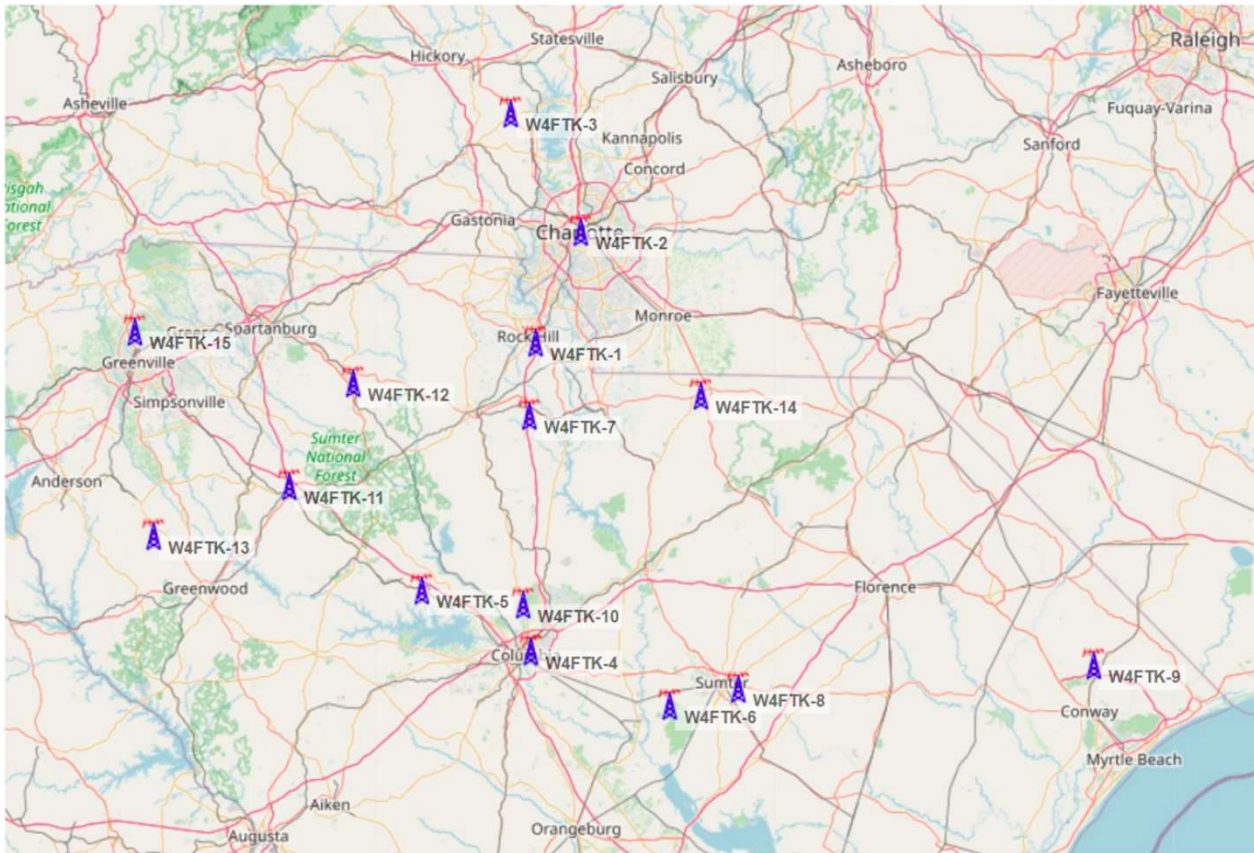
Click on the frequency for additional details.

Click on a header to sort. **Note:** Sorting does not carry through to exports!

~	Offset	↕ Access	📍 Location	State	County	Call	Use	Modes	"1"
146.6250	-0.6 MHz	D315 / D315	Little Mountain	SC	Newberry	W4FTK	OPEN	FM AllStar EchoLink	x
146.7600	-0.6 MHz	D315 / D315	Richburg	SC	Chester	W4FTK	OPEN	FM AllStar EchoLink	+
147.0600	+0.6 MHz	D315 / D315	Wedgefield	SC	Sumter	W4FTK	OPEN	FM AllStar EchoLink	x
147.2100	+0.6 MHz	D315 / D315	Aynor	SC	Horry	W4FTK	OPEN	FM AllStar EchoLink	+
441.7000	+5 MHz	D315 / D315	Union	SC	Union	W4FTK	OPEN	FM AllStar EchoLink	+
441.8250	+5 MHz	D315 / D315	Pageland	SC	Chesterfield	W4FTK	OPEN	FM AllStar EchoLink	+
441.8500	+5 MHz	D315 / D315	Donalds	SC	Abbeville	W4FTK	OPEN	FM AllStar EchoLink	+
442.1250	+5 MHz	D315 / D315	Charlotte	NC	Mecklenburg	W4FTK	OPEN	FM AllStar EchoLink	+
442.8750	+5 MHz	D315 / D315	Columbia	SC	Richland	W4FTK	OPEN	FM AllStar EchoLink	+
443.3000	+5 MHz	D315 / D315	Sumter	SC	Sumter	W4FTK	OPEN	FM AllStar EchoLink	+
443.4250	+5 MHz	D315 / D315	Greenville, Paris Mt	SC	Greenville	W4FTK	OPEN	FM AllStar EchoLink	+
443.6500	+5 MHz	D315 / D315	Blythewood	SC	Richland	W4FTK	OPEN	FM AllStar EchoLink	+
443.6750	+5 MHz	D315 / D315	Clinton	SC	Laurens	W4FTK	OPEN	FM AllStar EchoLink	+
443.8000	+5 MHz	D315 / D315	Rock Hill	SC	York	W4FTK	OPEN	FM AllStar EchoLink	+
444.6500	+5 MHz	D315 / D315	Denver, Anderson Mtn	NC	Catawba	W4FTK	OPEN	FM AllStar EchoLink	+

<https://w4ftk.home.blog/>

AllStar Node 40040 & EchoLink W4FTK-R



Proposed next steps

Help anyone that needs help with Zello. 32 respondents “I would like to learn more about Winlink”

Set up a net for the FleetTalk repeaters.

Slide 8 & 9 – Let’s plan this for Tuesday, March 18 @ 7:00 PM. That will be after the COMMEX.

Make a list of all the FleetTalk repeaters.

Take check-ins to see who can reach each of the FleetTalk repeaters.

Based on the results, consult with Matt Hall and John Morandi on setting up a subset of the repeaters for the Midlands – for periodic nets and for Skywarn activations

Winlink – for amateur radio licensed operators.

A draft Skywarn template is under review.

Sending a Winlink form to the Skywarn NCS is a very efficient way to communicate, plus using Winlink keeps the repeaters available for other traffic.

NWS Columbia

Equipment radios/antenna review.

Determine what we would need to take along to NWS Columbia if cell phones and the internet were down.

Skywarn Training – Basic, Advanced, Net Control (including NWS Chat 2.0)

Awaiting response from Steve LaVoie