



3rd Tuesday of the QUARTER Skywarn Zoom Call
October 20, 2026

Mark, K1MWG (previously KN4KRZ)

NWS Columbia, Midlands Area, Acting Coordinator

Tuesday, October 20, 2026 Zoom Call Agenda

- ***Welcome New Skywarn Spotters!***
- ***Recognize Skywarn Midlands Key Net Controls***
- ***Skywarn Midlands Strategic Plan - PACE***
- ***Isaías Recap***
- ***December 4th - 3rd Annual Doug Anderson Skywarn Spotter Appreciation Day***
- ***Zello – New channel to address potential security concerns - Important!***
- ***Closing***

NWS Columbia Key Net Controls

Tim Starr, K4RHK, Lexington

Lee Ott, WA4CNL, Calhoun

Mike Wieber, N4BQQ, Calhoun

Ron Jarosz, KB1ND, Kershaw

Dave Dahlberg, AA4TE, Kershaw

Mike Majority, N4VBV, Sumter

James Lewis, N4JWL, Calhoun

Mike Connelly, KX4TKO, Lexington

Mark Goddard, K1MWG, Richland

Skywarn Midlands Strategic Plan

Preparation

Spotter Initial Training

Basic Spotter Training –
Required

Handy Reference

https://www.weather.gov/media/bis/Weather_Spotter_Field_Guide.pdf

NWS Midlands

PACE Plan and Methods

To submit weather reports

[Methods-available-to-submit-reports-to-NWS-Columbia-Rev.-5.23.26-1.pdf](#)

Continuing Training & Practice

Skywarn Continuing Training

Basic Spotter Training – Occasional refresher is encouraged!

Advanced Spotter Training

Radar Interpretation

Ad hoc Spotter Training – *Example: NWS Nashville*

Net Control Station (Amateur Radio)

Ongoing Practice To Maintain Readiness

Monthly Zello Check-in (Hams and non-Hams)

2nd Tuesday of the month FleetTalk Net (Plus one Skywarn designated repeater - rotation)

HF Practice opportunities

– Tuesday SC Statewide ARES HF Net – 1800 Hrs on 3.990 LSB

– Daily – SC SSB Net – 1900 Hrs on 3.915 LSB

Quarterly Zoom Call – Training topics, Guest speakers

Go into Spotter mode

Spotter Job Description

Potential Hazardous Weather?

Monitor and Respond

Pay attention to local conditions –

Develop Situation Awareness

~~Get in the car and go storm chasin'!~~

No, don't do that!

Monitor Zello – Our virtual community of weather-ready Spotters and important others (Hams and non-Hams)

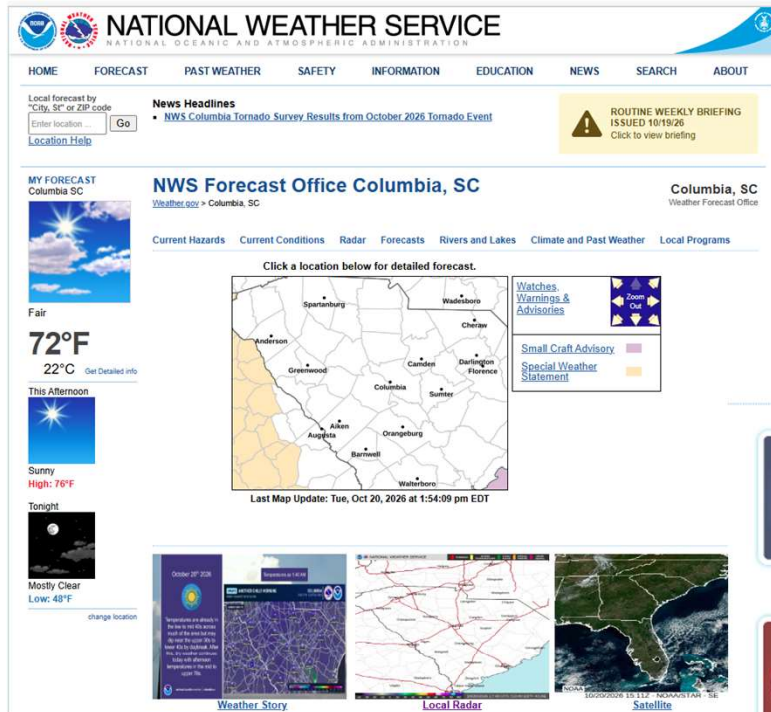
Monitor FleetTalk, Skywarn repeaters, NWS, Media, Weather Apps

Be ready to report conditions that meet NWS criteria:

Time / Event / Location

Important On-Line Resources For Spotters – Get to know these!

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



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

HOME FORECAST PAST WEATHER SAFETY INFORMATION EDUCATION NEWS SEARCH ABOUT

Local forecast by "City, SC" or ZIP code
Enter location ... Go
[Location Help](#)

News Headlines
• [NWS Columbia Tornado Survey Results from October 2026 Tornado Event](#)

ROUTINE WEEKLY BRIEFING
ISSUED 10/19/26
Click to view briefing

MY FORECAST
Columbia SC

NWS Forecast Office Columbia, SC
[Weather.gov > Columbia, SC](#)

Columbia, SC
Weather Forecast Office

[Current Hazards](#) [Current Conditions](#) [Radar](#) [Forecasts](#) [Rivers and Lakes](#) [Climate and Past Weather](#) [Local Programs](#)

Click a location below for detailed forecast.

[Watches Warnings & Advisories](#) [Small Craft Advisory](#) [Special Weather Statement](#)

72°F
22°C [Get Detailed info](#)

Fair

This Afternoon
Sunny
High: 76°F

Tonight
Mostly Clear
Low: 48°F

[change location](#)

[Weather Story](#) [Local Radar](#) [Satellite](#)

Last Map Update: Tue, Oct 20, 2026 at 1:54:09 pm EDT



[Radar](#)



[Current Weather](#)



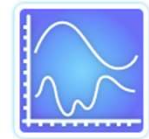
[Rivers & Lakes](#)



[Satellite](#)



[Forecast Maps](#)



[Hour by Hour Forecast](#)



[Tropical Weather](#)



[Graphical Hazards](#)



[Climate Plots](#)



[Weather Briefing](#)



[Regional Observations](#)



[Fire Weather](#)



[Forecaster's Discussion](#)



[Skywarn](#)



[Drought](#)



[Text Bulletins](#)

Important On-Line Resources For Spotters – Get to know these!

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

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Skywarn Storm Spotter Program
[Weather.gov > Columbia, SC > Skywarn Storm Spotter Program](#)

Columbia, SC
Weather Forecast Office

Current Hazards Current Conditions Radar Forecasts Rivers and Lakes Climate and Past Weather Local Programs

NWS Columbia SKYWARN

[SKYWARN Info](#) [Schedule/Registration](#) [Amateur Radio Info](#) [Submit Report](#) [More Resources](#)

What is SKYWARN?

In most years, thunderstorms, tornadoes and lightning cause hundreds of injuries and deaths and billions in property and crop damages. To obtain critical weather information, the National Weather Service (NWS) established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with between 350,000 and 400,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service. Although SKYWARN® spotters provide essential information for all types of weather hazards, the focus is reporting on severe local thunderstorms. In an average year, the United States experiences more than 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and more than 1,000 tornadoes.

Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods. SKYWARN® storm spotters form the nation's first line of defense against severe weather. There can be no finer reward than to know that your efforts have given your family and neighbors the precious gift of time—minutes that can help save lives.

Who is Eligible to Become a NWS Columbia Storm Spotter?

Any adult who lives in the [NWS Columbia service area](#) which includes 18 counties in central South Carolina and 5 counties in east central Georgia.

How to Become a NWS SKYWARN Storm Spotter

- 1) Attend one of our Basic Spotter training classes. There are no fees and no registration is required...just show up and enjoy the training. The current schedule can be found by clicking this link: [SKYWARN Training Schedule](#)
- 2) If you cannot attend one of our in-person training sessions or want to refresh your knowledge, try the [Online Storm Spotter Course](#). You will need to register on the COMET website to access the training. Be sure to follow the instructions in the Course Description section for how to become an official Storm Spotter for the NWS in Columbia, SC.

<https://www.weather.gov/cae/skywarn-ham>

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[Weather.gov > Columbia, SC > Information for Amateur Radio Operators](#)

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Statewide and Regional Amateur Radio Organizations

- American Radio Relay League - SC Section ARRL
- South Carolina Amateur Radio Club - KC4RC (Kershaw County, SC)
- South Carolina State Emergency Net - official
- North Augusta-Berkeley Radio Club - K4NAB (Aiken County, SC)
- Sumter Amateur Radio Association - W4SOL (Sumter, SC)
- Amateur Radio Club of Augusta - W4DVA (Augusta, GA)
- Burke Amateur Radio Club - K4BR (Burke County, GA)
- Amateur Radio Club of Columbia County - K4KNS (Columbia County, GA)
- Looking for a club? Check [here](#).

Local Amateur Radio Organizations

- Ridge Amateur Radio Club - W4RRR (Batesburg-Leesville, SC)
- Kershaw County Amateur Radio Club - KC4RC (Kershaw County, SC)
- Columbia Amateur Radio Club - W4CAE (Columbia, SC)
- North Augusta-Berkeley Radio Club - K4NAB (Aiken County, SC)
- Sumter Amateur Radio Association - W4SOL (Sumter, SC)
- Amateur Radio Club of Augusta - W4DVA (Augusta, GA)
- Burke Amateur Radio Club - K4BR (Burke County, GA)
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NWS Columbia's County Warning Area (CWA) & Amateur Radio Network

NWS Columbia utilizes the 2-Meter amateur radio network across Central SC and the CSRA to obtain severe weather reports. When a significant severe weather outbreak is anticipated, NWS meteorologists will ask for Net Control Stations to SKYWARN radio nets in areas threatened by severe weather. We may also call Amateur Radio Operators into our office to collect reports from the area nets, or establish one as well. The Call Sign for the NWS Columbia Office during an organized radio net is W4CAE. When calling net control, simply call Columbia SKYWARN. It is not the intent of the net to provide the latest conditions and forecasts. The purpose of the net is to receive reports, not give them out. During an active weather net, the operator may monitor the following repeaters:

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

Primary Net Repeater
• SKYWARN Repeater
(+/- Monitored but SKYWARN Head not involved with ARE/RECEIVING)

Repeater

Call Sign	Freq.	Zone
W4CAE	147.210	156.7

Repeater

Call Sign	Freq.	Zone
W4CAE	145.430	156.7

Repeater

Call Sign	Freq.	Zone
W4CAE	147.105	156.7

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Call Sign	Freq.	Zone
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Important On-Line Resources For Spotters – Get to know these!

<https://ares-sc.org/sc-midlands-ares-training-net/>

[Methods-available-to-submit-reports-to-NWS-Columbia-Rev.-5.23.26-1.pdf](#)

National Weather Service – SKYWARN Weather links

Midlands Skywarn – Recent/Current Business

Skywarn Midlands PACE Plan *

P – Primary – Zello “SC Midlands Skywarn” channel

A – Alternate – FleetTalk linked repeater system, or alternatively by Echolink or AllStar

C – Contingency – Designated Skywarn repeaters

E – Emergency – HF – 3.990 (+/-) LSB, 7.232 (+/-) LSB per the SC ARES/RACES Tactical Guide

* **Details of the PACE plan are available on Page 2 of this document:** [Methods available to submit reports to NWS Columbia Rev. 5.23.26](#)

How do I submit a report to NWS Columbia? It depends; see Page 1 of this document:

[Methods available to submit reports to NWS Columbia Rev. 5.23.26](#)

Midlands Skywarn 2nd Tuesday FleetTalk Net and 3rd Tuesday Zello/Quarterly Zoom Call schedule – Currently 7 PM start time (subject to change).

	2nd Tuesday of the month		3rd Tuesday of the month						
2026									
January	FleetTalk Net		Zello check-in & Skywarn Zoom call						
February	FleetTalk Net		Zello check-in & Skywarn Zoom call						
March	FleetTalk Net		Zello check-in & Skywarn Zoom call						
April	FleetTalk Net		Zello check-in & Skywarn Zoom call						
May	FleetTalk Net		Zello check-in & Skywarn Zoom call						
June 9th	FleetTalk Net	June 16th	Zello check-in only*						
July 14th	FleetTalk (plus Vance) Net	July 21st	Zello check-in* & Skywarn Quarterly Zoom call, ideally with training topic/guest speaker						
August 11th	FleetTalk (plus 147.210) Net	August 18th	Zello check-in only*						
September 8th	FleetTalk (plus 147.360) Net	September 15th	Zello check-in only*						
October 13th	FleetTalk (plus 146.775) Net	October 20th	Zello check-in* & Skywarn Quarterly Zoom call, ideally with training topic/guest speaker						
November 10th	FleetTalk (plus 145.430) Net	November 17th	Zello check-in only*						
December 8th	FleetTalk (plus Vance) Net	December 15th	Zello check-in only*						
2027									
January 12th	FleetTalk (plus 147.210) Net	January 19th	Zello check-in* & Skywarn Quarterly Zoom call, ideally with training topic/guest speaker						

Important On-Line Resources For Spotters – Get to know these!

<https://www.weather.gov/ohx/weather101>

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[Location Help](#)

NWS Nashville's Weather101
[Weather.gov](#) > [Nashville, TN](#) > NWS Nashville's Weather101

Nashville, TN
Weather Forecast Office



The National Weather Service Presents
Weather101

Weather101 is a series of FREE interactive online classes to help the public learn about meteorology, forecasting and the National Weather Service in general. These classes will explore the concepts formally found in what was our Advanced SKYWARN spotter classes, plus MORE!

Individuals or groups will be able to complete the courses in the comfort of their own home using the extremely user-friendly computer program, Go-To Meeting. **The only requirement will be speakers to listen, if you're using a computer.** If you want to ask questions, you will need to have a VOIP microphone (this is not a requirement).

Each class can be viewed on a Mac or PC, as well as on your iPad, iPhone or Android device by simply downloading the FREE Go-To-Webinar app in the app store on your device (you'll need the Webinar ID number supplied in the registration email).

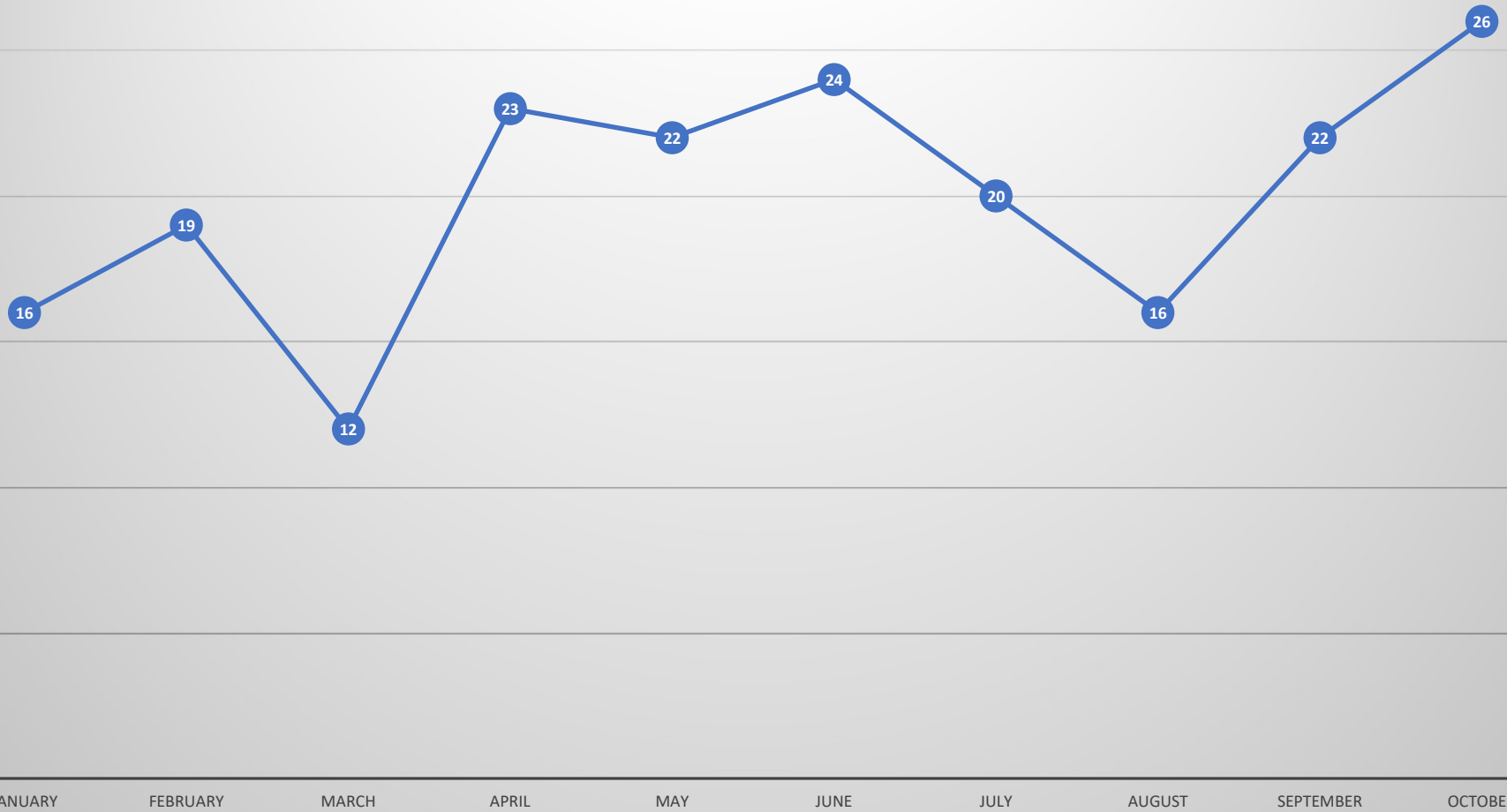
To sign up for one of our online classes, simply click on the link beside the date/time you want to attend below, fill out the form and we will forward you a link to register on the Go-To Meeting website. Register, download the FREE software, and BAM! You can attend the one hour online class. Remember, if you're using the Go-To Meeting app on your iPad, iPhone or Android device, your Webinar ID number will be included in your registration email.

Date	Time (CT)	Class Title	Register
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Near-term topics

Monday, Oct 19	7 pm	Winter Weather	Click Here to Register
Tuesday, Oct 20	7 pm	NWS Storm Surveys	Click Here to Register
Wednesday, Oct 21	7 pm	Weather Balloons	Click Here to Register
Thursday, Oct 22	7 pm	Satellites	Click Here to Register
Friday, Oct 23	10 am	Lightning	Click Here to Register
Monday, Oct 26	10 am	Winter Weather	Click Here to Register
Tuesday, Oct 27	7 pm	Observations in 3D	Click Here to Register
Wednesday, Oct 28	7 pm	Monsoons	Click Here to Register
Thursday, Oct 29	10 am	The Basics	Click Here to Register
Friday, Oct 30	10 am	Severe Thunderstorms	Click Here to Register

NWS Midlands Skywarn FleetTalk Repeater Net Check-ins



NWS Midlands Skywarn FleetTalk Net Check-in Summary

		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October
		1.13.26	2.10.26	3.10.26	4.14.26	5.12.26	6.9.26	7.14.26	8.11.26	9.8.26	10.13.26
1	Lancaster					1					
2	<i>Chesterfield*</i>	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2
3	<i>Lee*</i>	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	
4	Newberry					1					1
5	Fairfield		1								
6	Kershaw	2	2	2	1	2	3	1	1	2	3
7	Saluda					1					
8	Lexington	5	4	5	10	7	7	6	6	6	7
9	Richland	4	3	2	6	4	4	5	3	4	5
10	Sumter		1		3	3	6	4	2	6	4
11	Calhoun	2	1	1	1			1			2
12	Clarendon		2	1			1	1			1
13	Orangeburg		1						2		1
	GSP		2								
	North Carolina	1								1	
	Total	16	19	12	23	22	24	20	16	22	26
	<i>*Pee Dee</i>										
	(Plus Skywarn designated repeater Check-ins)					23	N/A	5	6	8	16
						Little Mtn.		Vance	Little Mtn.	K4HI	Ft. Jackson
						K4HI					
						Ft. Jackson					
						Sumter					

NWS Columbia YouTube page

October 9, 2026

Lead Meteorologist Dr. Matt Gropp discusses the forecast for Hurricane Isaias, currently located in the northern Gulf, including some of the meteorology behind the tornado threat and which parts of South Carolina may see the heaviest rainfall.

Hurricane Isaias Discussion

4:57 minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4QNZ3kXkK8>

October 13, 2026

NWS Columbia Lead Meteorologist Dr. Matt Gropp breaks down some of the impacts to the NWS Columbia forecast area from Post-Tropical Cyclone Isaias.

Five Tornadoes in the NWS Columbia Forecast Area: Hurricane Isaias Full Breakdown **18:33 minutes**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yS2QM5uTFow>

In summary:

NWS Columbia issued 11 tornado warnings and confirmed 5 tornadoes.

NWS Charleston issued 7 tornado warnings and confirmed 5 tornadoes.

NWS Columbia Facebook page

- Trained Spotters are encouraged to join this page.
- You can submit your weather reports (T,E,L) on this page, as well as photographs and videos.
- Here are some examples.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/586466339632587>

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/29216566707929761>



Tentative agenda for Friday, December 4, 2026.

Steve LaVoie will open registration once the agenda is finalized.

Friday December 4th, 2026 9am-2pm

**Carolina Room at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport
Park at 2909 Aviation Way West Columbia, SC 29170**

Agenda

- 9:00am – Opening Remarks
- 9:05am – Doug Anderson Tribute
- 9:15am – NWS Columbia 2026 Year in Review (Steve LaVoie)
- 9:30am – Basic SKYWARN Spotter Training (Nico Sartori)
- 11:30pm – Social Hour and Office Tours
- 12:30pm – SKYWARN/HAM Awards
- 12:45am – Top 10 Tornadoes Project (Madison Keziah)
- 1:30pm – South Carolina Hurricane History (Melissa Griffin)
- 1:55pm – Closing Remarks

- 2:30pm – SKYWARN Ket Net Control Meeting at CAE

Zello Update

In order to address potential security concerns with Zello, we are moving away from the channel “SC Midlands SKYWARN.” This channel was initially created without a password, so anyone who knows the channel name can access it.

To address this security issue, we have established “SkywarnCAE” a new Zello channel for Spotters, including Hams and non-Hams, who might want to use Zello to submit a hazardous weather report to NWS Columbia.

To join “SkywarnCAE” you will need to add the channel and the password. We are not publicly sharing this password. To obtain the password, send an email to either Tim Starr or Mark Goddard with your phone number. One of us will contact you by phone and provide you with the password. Once you’ve entered the password, Tim or Mark will perform a “Trust” transaction in Zello and you’ll be good to go.

Tim Starr Email: k4rhk1958@gmail.com

Mark Goddard: goddard.mw@gmail.com

THE END