



Carolinas Outdoor Hunting and Fishing the Carolinas



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I haven't met a hunter yet that hasn't experimented or researched the effects that the moon has on game movement. Do a search on the internet for "hunting the moon" and you'll find 12,400,000 results according to google.com, with that said, it's apparent that hunters and fishermen today are seriously interested what effects the moon has on the game that we pursue.

The folks over at Speedtech Instruments sent this unit over for review. I'd like to start out by saying that this will be a multi-part review that will be updated over the next few months.

OUT THE BOX

The unit is available from SpeedTech (www.speedtech.com) @ 114.00 on their website. The unit comes pre-packaged with batteries and a carrying case as well as a phillips screwdriver to remove the battery cover. You load the batteries and power the unit on. Then it's off to a "set up" mode which you input all your information for the area that you'll be hunting.

Ex. Time zone, latitude and longitude, altitude, etc.

REVIEW

One thing I quickly noticed about the unit after powering it on and setting it up was that the screen was rather hard to see during bright light and the back light for the unit is a replica of the green backlight that comes with many wrist watches.

The unit does read temps. and barometric pressure readings accurately (when compared to other units that I own, as well as weather websites) and overall is a fairly accurate unit.

The projected game movement tables are very easy to read and easily distinguished between the other readings on the screen. Much easier to see than the wrist watch made by Casio that many hunters have purchased.

FINAL COMMENTS

The unit is about the size of a BlackBerry Phone and other than the screen issues I spoke about earlier it appears to perform as advertised. I ran a few independent test with friends that hunted in my area. I asked them to record the times that they saw deer moving during their hunts last week. I was able to obtain over 10 reports within a 25 mile radius that added up to 80% accuracy rating. The reports were surprisingly accurate across the board. If the unit predicted movement between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm as "Best Times"...I was getting reports of deer being seen during these times. I received 5 emails saying "I jumped deer on the way to my stand @ 3pm in areas where the deer don't bed down" This tells me the deer were on their feet and on the move. I didn't disclose the information the unit was predicting to anyone that was reporting back to me.

Hunting the moon is not something that is new to hunters. We've been studying this for years, the bottom line is being able to have an accurate chart available to those of us that want to pursue it. The SpeedTech unit overall, does just that. The unit is not a \$500.00 dollar unit and anyone expecting that type of quality will surely be disappointed, however, if you want an accurate unit and can overlook some of it's flaws, this unit will perform just as advertised.

As I stated in the intro, this will be a multi-part review, I've got several "testers" lined up to provide trail cam photos for us over the next few weeks/months. I will be reporting the results as a follow up to this review. I'll disclose exactly what the unit predicted for that day based on what the trail cams recorded. Stay tuned.

