



# **Kestrel<sup>®</sup>4250**

## **Racing Weather Tracker**

*with Backlight*

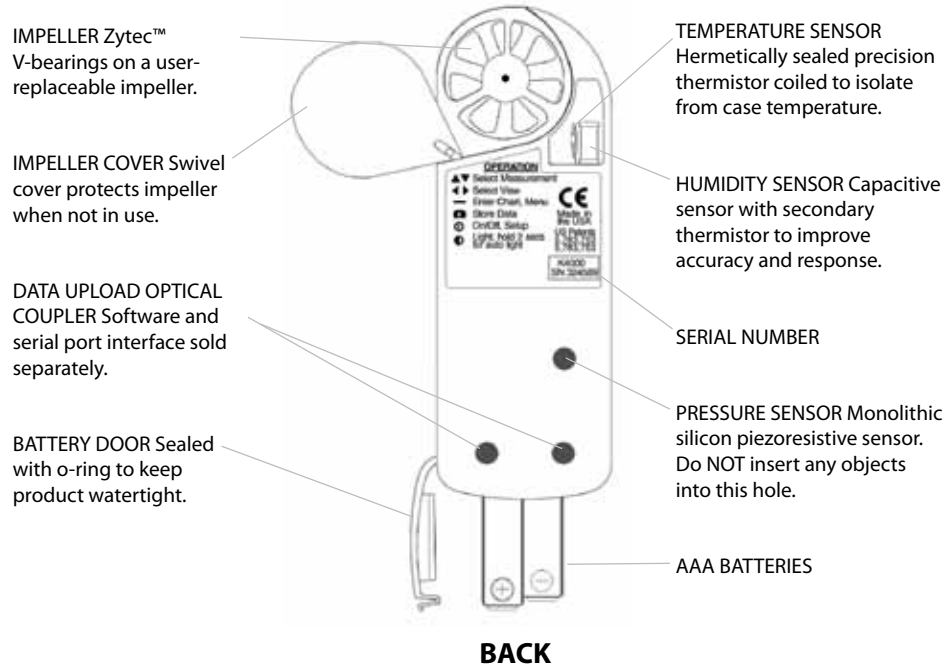
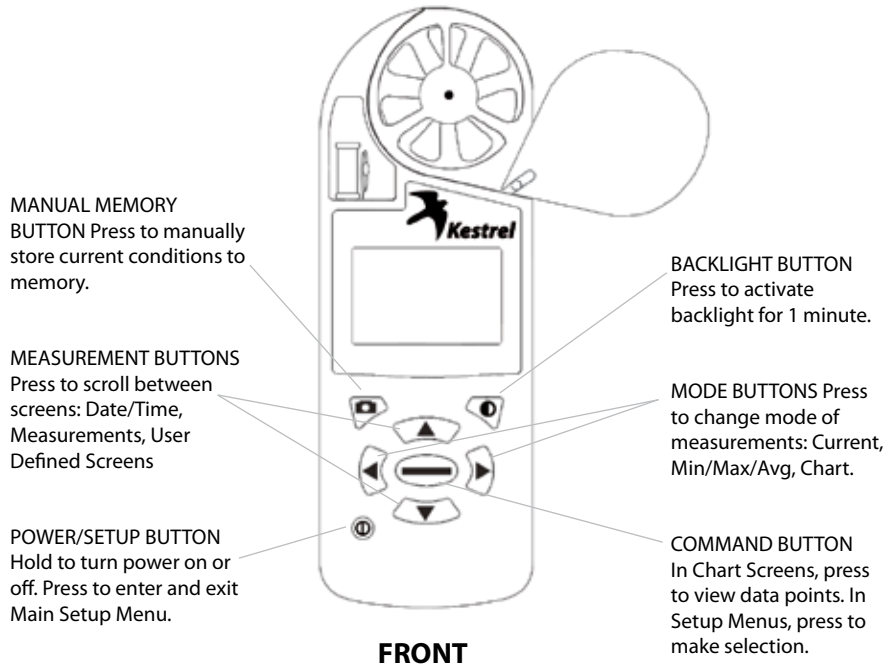
***In a hurry?***  
*Be sure to read pages  
5-7 to ensure that  
your Kestrel is setup  
properly!*

## **Instruction Manual for Kestrel 4250 Racing Weather Tracker**



**[www.kestrelweather.com](http://www.kestrelweather.com)**

**800.784.4221**



# Kestrel® 4250 Racing Weather® Tracker

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Congratulations on the purchase of your Kestrel 4250 Racing Weather Tracker! The Kestrel 4250 is our newest and most comprehensive Racing-specific instrument. It not only measures EVERY major environmental condition easily, accurately and right in the palm of your hand, but now also automatically calculates Density Altitude and Water Grains (Humidity Ratio).

While the Kestrel 4250 is user-friendly and simple to use, reading the instruction manual is recommended in order to use the Kestrel 4250 to its fullest potential.

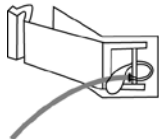
NK, manufacturer of Kestrel Pocket Weather Meters, is available to answer questions and provide support. Contact NK by phone: 610.447.1555, fax: 610.447.1577, email: info@nkhome.com, or web: www.kestrelweather.com.



## GETTING STARTED

### Pouch and Lanyards

Wrist and neck lanyards and a small pouch have been provided. To install the lanyard, feed the thin end of the lanyard around the metal post on the battery door (as shown in diagram). Feed the thick end of the lanyard through the loop on the thin end. Using tweezers can help.



### Battery Installation

Use only AAA batteries. Install batteries as indicated on the battery door. After installing the batteries, the Kestrel 4250 will automatically start in the Date and Time Setting mode. (See Date and Time Setup below.) Custom settings and chart data will be saved during a battery change; only the date/time and MMA values will be lost.

### Turning the Kestrel Meter ON and OFF

To turn the Kestrel Meter ON, press **ⓘ** the button. To turn the Kestrel Meter OFF, hold the **ⓘ** button for two seconds. Or, press the **ⓘ** button, then press the **—** button with the word OFF highlighted. (Note: your unit will continue to automatically store data when the power is turned off.) When first turned on, the Kestrel Meter will display a splash screen displaying the model number, the battery indicator, and the code version. This battery indicator will indicate the percentage of battery life remaining, which is helpful in preventing unexpected dead batteries.

### Date and Time Setup

The first time that you turn on your Kestrel Meter, as well as after a battery change, you will need to set the date and time. The Introduction Screen will appear for 3 seconds, followed by the Date/Time Setup Screen. Press the **▲** and **▼** buttons to scroll through the settings. Press the **◀** and **▶** buttons to scroll through the setting options. After entering the date and time, press the **ⓘ** button to exit the Date/Time Setup. Then press the **ⓘ** button again to exit the Main Setup Menu.



## Measurements use ▲ and ▼

- ☼ Wind Speed
- 🌡 Temperature
- 💧 Humidity
- 🌿 Water Grains /Moisture
- 💧 Dew Point
- 📍 Station Pressure
- 🏔 Density Altitude
- 🌫 Air Density
- ☂ Relative Air Density
- Hidden Functions:
- ❄ Wind Chill
- 🔥 Heat Index
- 💧 Wet Bulb
- 📏 Barometric Pressure
- 🏔 Altitude

See measurements section on p.14  
to activate hidden functions

## NAVIGATION

The Kestrel 4250 is set up to display 9 Measurements (some are calculations) in 3 Modes.

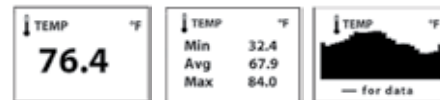
The Measurements are listed here with their corresponding screen icon. In addition to these Measurements and Modes, there are also 3 User Screens (one is hidden in default mode), which simultaneously show 3 current measurements, and the Date & Time Screen. Use the ▲ and ▼ buttons to scroll through the various Measurements, followed by the 2 default User Screens and the Date/Time Screen. Any of these screens can be turned off so that you can customize your Kestrel Meter to show the screens that your application requires. Additional measurements are available. (See the Measurements section in the Main Menu.)

The Modes are displayed below. Use the ◀ and ▶ buttons to scroll through the various Modes. From any mode, you may still scroll to a different Measurement by pressing the ▲ and ▼ buttons.

**Current** - Displays the instantaneous reading.

**Min/Max/Avg** - Displays the Minimum/Maximum/Average readings from stored data. If there is no stored data, the values will be displayed as --.--.

**Chart** - Displays a graphical representation of up to 2000 stored data points for each measurement. If there is no stored data, the axis will appear, but the chart will be blank. (See the following section for information on Chart Navigation.) **Modes use ◀ and ▶**

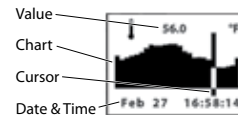


## Navigation of Charts

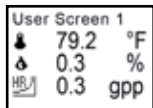
The Kestrel 4250 is capable of storing up to 2000 data points for each measurement. To review the data, press the — button while viewing a chart. A cursor will appear on the most recent data point. Press the ◀ and ▶ buttons to scroll through the data points. The date and time at which the data was stored will be displayed at the bottom of the screen, and the data value will be displayed at the top of the screen. Hold down the ◀ or ▶ button to scroll quickly through the data points.

Press the ▲ or ▼ button to review the data for the other measurements. Please note that the cursor will remain at the same date and time. If new data is stored while viewing chart data, the entire chart will shift left with the new data point charted on the right. The cursor will not shift with the chart.

Press the — button to return to the Chart Mode.



### SPECIAL FUNCTIONS



#### Customizable User Screens

The Kestrel Meter has three User Screens that can be customized to display three current measurements simultaneously. These screens can also be turned off. (See the Main Menu section for setup instructions.)

#### Max/Avg for Wind Speed & Wind Chill

The Max/Avg values for the wind speed and wind chill values are measured independently from the stored and charted data.

This allows the user to start and stop the averaging period in the most appropriate manner for their application. Averaging on all wind-related values (Wind Speed and Wind Chill) will be started and stopped together.

While viewing the Min/Max/Avg screen for any of these measurements, hold the unit into the wind, and press the  button when the screen displays "--average" to begin collecting data for all measurements, and again when the screen displays "--stop" to stop collecting data and hold the values on the display. Press the  button when the screen displays "--clear" to clear the data. This routine will work simultaneously for all measurements, regardless of which one is displayed while the routine is run. The Max/Avg for these wind values will not affect any other Min/Max/Avg or stored data.

#### Manual Data Storage

To manually store data, press the  button. One of the following will appear: Data Stored (data has been captured and will appear on chart), Full (Overwrite is off and data log is full), or Off (Manual Store button has been disabled). (See the Main Setup Menu section for more information on memory.)

#### Backlight

The Kestrel Meter has a high-visibility green backlight, which makes the display easily read in low-light conditions.

Press the  button to activate the backlight. The light will remain activated for one minute. Press the  button within one minute to deactivate the light manually.

#### Relative Humidity

The Kestrel Meter is capable of measuring RH to a high accuracy: +/- 3% RH between 5 and 95%. To ensure operation within these specifications, please follow these recommendations:

- Avoid taking measurements in direct sunlight, which will heat the air inside the humidity sensor enclosure and cause inaccurate readings.
- If your circumstances force you to expose the Kestrel Meter to a large temperature swing prior to taking a relative humidity reading (such as when taking a Kestrel Meter stored inside at 70° F outside to a temperature of 40° F), you will need to take additional steps to ensure that the Kestrel Meter's external temperature sensor is in thermal equilibrium.
  - Ideally, provide an wind speed of at least 1 M/S (2.2 MPH), over the temperature sensor—point the Kestrel Meter into the wind. If there is no wind, simply wave the unit back and forth so air passes over the sensors. With airflow over the temperature sensors and humidity chambers, readings within specifications will be provided within two to three minutes, even after a large temperature shift.
  - If no airflow can be provided, you must allow sufficient time for the RH value to stabilize. This can take as long as 20 minutes—the greater the temperature change, the greater the time. You can use the logging capability of the Kestrel Meter to confirm that the unit has stabilized to a correct reading: Set the memory options to a relatively short logging interval (20 seconds works well), select the graphical

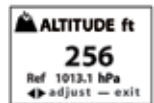
display of RH, and you can see when the value is no longer changing significantly. At that point, the RH value is stable and can be relied upon to be within the accuracy specifications.

### Station Pressure, Barometric Pressure and Altitude Adjustment

The Kestrel 4250 Meter measures “station” pressure — the actual air pressure in the measurement location. Station (Absolute) Pressure is what is shown on the “Pressure” screen. Station pressure changes in response to two things — changes in altitude and changes in the atmosphere. **\*If your racing software program asks for Station Pressure or Absolute Pressure, then use the “Pressure” screen displayed on the Kestrel.**

**\*If your racing software program asks for Barometric Pressure and Altitude, see below.**

Barometric pressure is station pressure corrected to sea level. In order to make the correction, the Kestrel Meter needs an accurate reference altitude. Altitude is the height above sea level. In order to correctly calculate altitude, the unit needs an accurate barometric pressure reference, also known as an “altimeter setting”. Fortunately, you only need to know ONE of these values (current barometric pressure or current altitude) in order to set your Kestrel Meter up to show accurate readings.



#### Starting with the known barometric pressure for your location

You can obtain your current barometric pressure by checking an internet weather site for a nearby location, or contacting a local airport. Set this value as your reference pressure on the ALTITUDE screen to determine your correct altitude: Press the — button to enter the reference setting mode. Press the ► button to increase the reference pressure or the ◀ button to decrease the reference pressure. You will notice that the altitude will change with changes in the reference pressure. Press the — button to exit the adjustment mode. Set your Kestrel Meter down on a

table and allow the altitude reading to stabilize. (Note: very small changes in pressure generate noticeable changes in altitude. In order to provide meaningful readings for activities where altitude changes quickly, the Kestrel Meter features rapid altitude response. This is why the altitude readings tend to fluctuate by a few feet.) After obtaining a current altitude from the ALTITUDE screen, move to the BARO screen and enter this value as your reference altitude by following the same procedure. Both readings will now be accurate.



#### Starting with a known altitude for your location

You can obtain your altitude from a topographical map or local landmark. Google Earth is an excellent free program that provides the exact altitude for any given address: [www.earth.google.com/](http://www.earth.google.com/). Set this value as your reference altitude on the BARO screen to determine your barometric pressure: Press the — button to enter the reference setting mode. Press the ► button to increase the reference altitude or the ◀ button to decrease the reference altitude. You will notice that the barometric pressure will change with changes in the reference altitude. Press the — button to exit the adjustment mode. Again, allow the Kestrel Meter to stabilize, then enter the value from the BARO screen as your reference pressure on the ALTITUDE screen by following the same procedure. Both readings are now accurate.

When reviewing stored data, remember that changes in pressure AND changes in location/altitude will affect the stored values. When tracking pressure changes relative to weather, set the reference altitude on the BARO screen and keep the Kestrel Meter in one location. Your graph history will now show trends in barometric pressure. Your altitude as shown on the ALTITUDE screen will change as the weather changes, but you can ignore this screen for this purpose.

If you are planning a day hike would like to track your altitude, you'll need to enter the correct reference pressure on the ALTITUDE screen as described above in “starting with the known barometric pressure.” You can now track the altitude changes as you hike. In this instance, you should ignore the values on the

BARO screen, since the pressure changes will be due to changes in elevation far more than to changes in the weather.

In general, changes in barometric pressure associated with weather changes are small over the course of one day, but they will affect the accuracy of the altimeter over time. This is why aircraft reset their altimeters at every airfield by entering the field's "altimeter setting" or reference pressure. Accordingly, if accurate altitude readings are your primary interest, you should reset the reference pressure on your Kestrel Meter regularly. If you encounter an elevation landmark, you can adjust the reference pressure until the altitude matches the landmark elevation. This will correct the altitude for any pressure changes due to the weather. (Or, you can obtain an updated reference pressure from the sources described above.)

The above discussion applies to ALL pressure altimeters, including one you may have in a watch or other device, but not to GPS altimeters, which use satellite triangulation to determine altitude. Note that with present GPS technology, pressure altimeters remain more accurate for measuring altitude change. This is why airplanes still rely on pressure altimeters, not GPS.

Finally, the DENSITY ALTITUDE screen is calculated from the absolute values of station pressure, relative humidity and temperature, and is not affected by the reference values entered in the BARO and ALTITUDE screens.

MAIN SETUP MENU

You can customize your Kestrel Meter in multiple ways. Press the  button to access the Main Setup Menu. Press the  button to select the highlighted setting. The Main Setup Menu contains: OFF, Memory Options, Measurements, Graph Scale, Units, User Screens, System, Date & Time, Language and Restore.

Off

Press the  then the  button to turn the display off. Even when the Kestrel Meter's display is turned off, the unit will continue to automatically store data at the defined Store Rate. The battery life will be decreased if data is stored frequently. The only way to completely shut off the unit is to remove the batteries. Custom settings and data will be stored when the batteries are removed.

Memory Options

These settings control the data storage properties.

| Setting                        | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Operation                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Clear Log<br>(Go/Done)         | All stored data is cleared. This will also clear Min/Max/Avg data.                                                                                                                                                    | Press  or  to clear the log.                             |
| Reset MMA<br>(Go/Done)         | All Min/Max/Avg data is cleared. Chart data will remain intact.                                                                                                                                                       | Press  or  to clear the MMA.                             |
| Auto Store<br>(On/Off)         | When On, data is automatically stored at preset Store Rate. When Off, data is only stored when manually captured with the  button. | Press  or  to toggle between On and Off.                 |
| Store Rate<br>(2 sec. – 12 hr) | The frequency at which data sets are automatically stored. (Battery life may be shortened if data is stored frequently.)                                                                                              | Press  or  to increase or decrease Store Rate frequency. |

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                            |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Overwrite<br>(On/Off) | This setting only applies when the data log is full. When On, oldest data point is discarded to allow memory for the new data point. When Off, new data points are not saved.                                                                             | Press ◀ or ▶ to toggle between On and Off. |
| Man Store<br>(On/Off) | When On, data is stored when the  button is pressed. When off, the  button is disabled. | Press ◀ or ▶ to toggle between On and Off. |

### Measurements

Measurement screens can be turned off, or “hidden” from the normal measurement navigation. For example, if wind chill is not of interest, it can be hidden. Press the ◀ or ▶ button to toggle between ON and OFF for each individual measurement. Press the ▲ or ▼ button to highlight the desired measurement. Press the Ⓢ button to return to the Main Setup Menu. Even when measurements are hidden, the Kestrel Meter will continue to log data for all measurements. If you wish to see the logged data for measurements that are hidden, simply enter the Measurement screen and turn them back on. The data will be stored in the same manner as all other measurements, as specified in the Store Rate.

### Graph Scale

These settings control the chart limits of your Kestrel Meter. Depending on the conditions, the lower and upper limits of the chart scale may need to be adjusted in order to get the best view of the data. Highlight the desired measurement by pressing the ▲ or ▼ button. Select the highlighted measurement by pressing the — button. Press the ◀ or ▶ button to increase or decrease the value of the limits. Press the ▲ or ▼ button to change between the upper and lower limits. Press the Ⓢ button to exit and return to the Measurement Selection screen. Press the Ⓢ button to return to the Main Setup Menu.

### Units

The units of measure can be adjusted to best suit the application. The following units are available:

|                                                                  |                                        |                                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wind Speed</b>                                                | m/s<br>km/h<br>kt<br>mph<br>fpm<br>Bft | meters per second<br>kilometers per hour<br>knots<br>miles per hour<br>feet per minute<br>Beaufort |
| <b>Temperature, Dewpoint,<br/>Wet Bulb Temp &amp; Heat Index</b> | °C<br>°F                               | Celsius<br>Fahrenheit                                                                              |
| <b>Pressure</b>                                                  | inHg<br>hPa<br>psi<br>mb               | inches mercury<br>hectopascals<br>pounds per square inch<br>millibar                               |
| <b>Altitude, Density Altitude</b>                                | m<br>ft                                | meters<br>feet                                                                                     |
| <b>Moisture (Water Grains)</b>                                   | gpp<br>g/kg                            | grains per pound<br>grams per kilogram                                                             |
| <b>Air Density</b>                                               | lb/ft³<br>kg/m³                        | pounds per cubic foot<br>kilograms per cubic meter                                                 |

Highlight the desired measurement by pressing the ▲ or ▼ button. Press the ◀ or ▶ button to scroll through the available units. Press the Ⓢ button to return to the Main Setup Menu.

## Kestrel® 4250 Racing Weather® Tracker

### User Screens

The three User Screens can be reconfigured to display the most appropriate information for your application. For example, if you need to monitor the wind speed, humidity and barometric pressure, a User Screen can display these current measurement values on the same screen for quick reference. Only current measurements can be selected for the User Screens — Min/Max/Avg and Charts are not available.

Highlight the desired User Screen by pressing the ▲ or ▼ button. Press the — button to select the highlighted User Screen. Press the ▲ or ▼ buttons to change lines, and the ◀ or ▶ button to scroll through the available measurements for each highlighted line. Press the ⓘ button to return to the User Screen Setup Menu. Repeat above process for the other User Screens or press the ⓘ button to return to the Main Setup Menu. The User Screens may also be hidden if not needed.

### System

The display Contrast and Auto Shutdown can be reconfigured as required. The relative humidity and pressure sensors can also be recalibrated. Press the ▲ or ▼ buttons to highlight the appropriate selection, and the ◀ or ▶ button to adjust or select.

The Contrast can be adjusted for better visibility depending on the ambient lighting conditions. Press the ◀ or ▶ button to increase or decrease the contrast from 0 to 20 (0 is lightest, 20 is darkest).

The display can be set to automatically turn off in order to conserve the battery life. Auto Shutdown will only occur after the preset time has elapsed without any button presses. Press the ◀ or ▶ button to scroll through the Auto Shutdown options (15 minutes, 60 minutes, Off). Battery life will be shortened if the Auto Shutdown is turned to Off.

Baro Cal - *Recalibration of this sensor is not typically required, and it is not recommended that you recalibrate without speaking to an NK technician.* The pressure sensor can be calibrated if necessary. It is extremely important to know the precise altitude and mean sea level barometric pressure at the time of calibrating the sensor. First, set the reference altitude on the BARO measurement screen to the known altitude (see

Pressure Adjustment section for instructions). Then adjust the calibrating setting on the Baro Cal screen to the known mean sea level barometric pressure. If recalibration is desired, the unit may also be returned to NK for service.

Humidity Cal - *Recalibration of this sensor is not typically required, and it is not recommended that you recalibrate without speaking to an NK technician.* The humidity sensor can be calibrated by “teaching” it the correct humidity. Some special equipment is required for this calibration, including two hermetically sealed containers and saturated salt solutions. NK offers a calibration kit, and instructions are available on [www.nkhome.com](http://www.nkhome.com). If recalibration is desired, the unit may also be returned to NK for service.

### Date & Time

The date and time, as well as date and time formats, can be adjusted. The Time Formats available are 12 hour and 24 hour. The Date formats available are day/month/year and month/day/year. (See the Date and Time Set Up section for instructions.) Press the ⓘ button to return to the Main Setup Menu.

### Language

Displayed text can be set in one of five languages: English, French, German, Italian or Spanish. To choose a language, use the ▲ or ▼ buttons to highlight the desired language. Press the — button to select the language and return to the Main Setup Menu. Otherwise, press the ⓘ button to return to the Main Setup Menu without changing languages.

### Restore

Default settings for units of measure, date and time formats, and system settings can be restored. (See the Factory Default Settings section for more information.) Press the ▲ or ▼ button to highlight the desired default setting: Metric, Imperial or Defaults. Press the ◀ or ▶ button to reset the factory setting. Press the ⓘ button to return to the Main Setup Menu.

APPLICATION EXAMPLES

This section provides examples of applications where a Kestrel Racing Meter might be used, and the appropriate memory settings.

Weather Monitoring for Race Weekend

|            |        |
|------------|--------|
| Auto Store | On     |
| Store Rate | 1/2 hr |
| Overwrite  | On     |
| Man Store  | On     |

These settings will allow you to track conditions for 1 month. When the memory is full, each new measurement will be stored in place of the oldest data point. The charts will provide a quick look at the recent weather conditions. Keep an eye out for falling barometric pressure, which indicates that a storm is coming.

Weather Monitoring - In the Staging Lanes

|            |       |
|------------|-------|
| Auto Store | On    |
| Store Rate | 1 min |
| Overwrite  | Off   |
| Man Store  | On    |

These settings will allow you to track the conditions for more than 24 hours. Measurements will be stored every minute, and stop storing when the log is full. This will let you review the data at your convenience. To get the full use of the available memory, be sure to clear data at the start of each race day.

MEMORY CAPABILITIES

| Store Rate | Total Memory          | Store Rate | Total Memory          |
|------------|-----------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 2 sec      | 53 min, 20 sec        | 10 min     | 11 days, 2 hr, 40 min |
| 5 sec      | 2 hr, 13 min, 20 sec  | 20 min     | 22 days, 5 hr, 20 min |
| 10 sec     | 4 hr, 26 min, 40 sec  | 30 min     | 33 days, 8 hr         |
| 20 sec     | 8 hr, 53 min, 20 sec  | 1 hr       | 66 days, 16 hr        |
| 30 sec     | 13 hr, 20 min         | 2 hr       | 133 days, 8 hr        |
| 1 min      | 1 day, 2 hr, 40 min   | 5 hr       | 333 days, 8 hr        |
| 2 min      | 2 days, 5 hr, 20 min  | 12 hr      | 800 days              |
| 5 min      | 5 days, 13 hr, 20 min |            |                       |

### GLOSSARY

The below definitions have been greatly simplified in order to keep this section brief. We strongly recommend that anyone who wishes to make use of these measurements refer to one of the many excellent weather references available for a more in-depth definition. On the internet, visit [www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com) or [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov). Or, locate the USA Today publication, *The Weather Book*. Please note that any words in a definition printed in *italics* are themselves defined in this glossary.

#### Altimeter Setting

An aviation term for the local barometric pressure. Same as *reference pressure*.

#### Altitude

The distance above sea level. The Kestrel Meter calculates altitude based on the measured *station pressure* and the input *barometric pressure* — or “reference pressure”.

#### Air Density

The mass of air per unit volume. It is a function of temperature, humidity, and pressure.

#### Barometric Pressure

The air pressure of your location reduced to sea level. Pressure will change as weather systems move into your location. Falling pressure indicates the arrival of a low pressure system and expected precipitation or storm conditions. Steady or rising pressure indicates clear weather. A correct altitude must be input for the Kestrel Meter to display barometric pressure correctly.

#### Density Altitude

The *altitude* at which you would be, given the current air density. Often used by individuals who tune high performance internal combustion engines, such as race car engines. Also of interest pilots in order to determine how an aircraft will perform.

#### Dewpoint

The *temperature* to which air must be cooled in order for condensation to occur. The difference between *dewpoint* and *temperature* is referred to as the “temperature/dew point spread”. A low dewpoint spread indicates high *relative humidity*, while a large dewpoint spread indicates dry conditions.

#### Heat Index

A practical measure of how hot the current combination of *relative humidity* and *temperature* feels to a human body. Higher *relative humidity* makes it seem hotter because the body’s ability to cool itself by evaporating perspiration is reduced.

#### Moisture Content (Water Grains)

The ratio between the actual mass of water vapor present in moist air — to the mass of the dry air.

#### Reference Pressure

The local *barometric pressure*. Input to the *altitude* screen to provide correct altitude readings. Also known as the *altimeter setting*.

#### Relative Air Density

A proportion of measured air density to standard air density. Standard air density uses standard (fixed) values for temperature, humidity and pressure.

#### Relative Humidity

The amount of water vapor actually in the air divided by the maximum amount of water vapor the air could hold at that temperature, expressed as a percentage.

#### Station Pressure

The *air pressure* of your location, NOT reduced to the sea level equivalent.

Temperature

The ambient air temperature.

Wet Bulb Temperature

The lowest *temperature* to which a thermometer can be cooled by evaporating water into the air at constant pressure. This measurement is a holdover from the use of an instrument called a sling psychrometer. To measure wet bulb temperature with a sling psychrometer, a thermometer with a wet cloth covering over the bulb is spun rapidly through the air. If the relative humidity is high, there will be little evaporative cooling and the wet bulb temperature will be quite close to the ambient temperature. Some exercise physiology guides use *wet bulb temperature*, rather than *heat index*, as a measure of the safety of exercise in hot and humid conditions.

Wind Chill

The cooling effect of combining wind and temperature. The wind chill gives a more accurate reading of how cold it really feels to the human body. The Kestrel Meter’s wind chill is based on the National Weather Service standards as of November 1, 2001.

DEFAULT SETTINGS

| UNIT                      | METRIC                                              | IMPERIAL       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Wind Functions            | M/s                                                 | mph            |
| Temperature Functions     | °C                                                  | °F             |
| Barometric Pressure       | hPa                                                 | inHg           |
| Altitude Functions        | M                                                   | Ft             |
| Time Format               | 24 hour                                             | 12 hour        |
| Date Format               | Day/month/year                                      | Month/day/year |
| Moisture Content          | g/kg                                                | gpp            |
| Air Density               | kg/m³                                               | lb/ft³         |
| Relative Air Density      | %                                                   | %              |
| SETTING                   | FACTORY DEFAULT                                     |                |
| Automatic                 | Data Store On                                       |                |
| Data Store Rate           | 1 hour                                              |                |
| Data Overwrite            | On                                                  |                |
| Manual Data Store         | On                                                  |                |
| User Screen 1             | Temperature, Humidity, Moisture                     |                |
| User Screen 2             | Air Density, Relative Air Density, Density Altitude |                |
| User Screen 3 (available) | Wind Speed, Dewpoint, Station Pressure              |                |
| Display Contrast          | 10                                                  |                |
| Automatic Shutdown        | 15 minutes                                          |                |
| Language                  | English                                             |                |

PC Upload

Stored data may be uploaded to a PC with the optional Kestrel Interface.

### **Think the weather conditions at the track are the same as the information you are getting from back at the trailer? Think again.**

Even slight changes in air density, water grains, and density altitude can dramatically affect a machine's performance. With the added ability to easily measure and track these and other critical factors, such as absolute pressure, temperature, humidity, wind speed and barometric pressure, the Kestrel 4250 Racing Weather Tracker arms racers with the accurate weather data needed to make those last minute jetting or tuning decisions.

Conditions on the track can often vary greatly from those in the pits. The rugged, portable and easy to use Kestrel 4250 Racing Weather Tracker quickly provides racers and pit crews with the most accurate and up-to-date data available where you need it most — at the track. It allows tuners to determine what last minute changes need to be made based on the current local conditions, even immediately before the first lap around the track or pass down the drag strip — giving you that competitive edge at a fraction of the cost of other systems on the market.

The Kestrel 4250 Racing Weather Tracker also features an automatic and manual data storage function, allowing you to easily keep logs of race day conditions from track to track, year to year. The Kestrel PC Interface and Communicator Software allows data to be easily transferred directly to a PC or laptop — making long-term storage, in-depth analysis, and detailed charting of stored data a breeze.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **Why is it important to know the weather conditions, and how can the Kestrel 4250 help me win races?**

Weather affects your performance. Period. If you are not using something to measure the weather conditions then you are missing a piece of valuable information that can help you win races. Environmental conditions such as relative humidity, density altitude, dewpoint and wind speed all influence your car. By monitoring these conditions and analyzing how weather patterns from previous races change your car's performance, you are able to make more informed dial-in and tuning decisions. Since the Kestrel 4250 Pocket Weather Tracker is portable and accurate, it enables you to monitor the weather conditions that concern you right at the track, not at the trailer miles away.

#### **Any suggestions where and when is the best time to take readings? Before or after a run, or both?**

We don't claim to be racing experts, but here are some tips that will help. The one thing we can say is that consistency is a must. Pick a system and stick with it. It's often easier to record the weather data immediately after returning from a run. That way it won't matter if you get delayed at the start. Also, you can set the Kestrel to automatically store data every five minutes, and then just coordinate times with the timeslip. Lastly, for the most accurate readings possible, it's best to keep the Kestrel 4250 in the shade, and make sure air is circulating through the temperature sensor (the curly thing), either by holding it in the breeze or by waving it around.

#### **I have E.T. prediction software and I want to make sure I am imputing the correct readings for my dial-in.**

- If your software asks for station or raw pressure, use "pressure" screen displayed on Kestrel.
- If your software asks for density altitude, you can use the value that your Kestrel 4250 automatically measures.
- If your software asks for barometric pressure and altitude, make sure you know your track's altitude ahead of time and enter it in as the "reference altitude."

### **I don't have E.T. prediction software, any help you can offer how I can dial in with the Kestrel alone?**

We went to the experts to get an answer for this one. Here's how they do it at Martino Motorsports: The density altitude reading is the most important to us. For every 150 ft. increase in DA, our car will lose .01 in elapsed time, and for every 150 ft. decrease our car will pick up .01 in elapsed time. But we can get the same DA and have two completely different runs. This is due to humidity factor. Although the DA might be the same, you can have a different temperature and humidity combination. For every 15% increase in humidity our car's performance will decrease .01 in elapsed time and for every 15% decrease in humidity our car's performance will increase .01 in performance.

### **I've seen a lot of high dollar weather units on the market, yours is so inexpensive, can it really be accurate?**

The engineers at NK have been working on the Kestrel's functionality for over ten years, and have been awarded four patents on their innovative engineering. Additionally, each and every Kestrel is calibrated against NIST-traceable standards, and can be recalibrated in the field or factory. We're so sure of Kestrel Meter's functionality that we guarantee each Kestrel for five-years, and each one comes with a Certificate of Conformity. Visit [www.kestrelweather.com](http://www.kestrelweather.com) for detailed specifications.

### **Why is my Kestrel Meter is not registering wind speed?**

It probably just needs a replacement impeller. You can verify this by removing the impeller (press firmly on the sides of the impeller), and turn the unit on to the wind speed screen. Hold the Kestrel Meter near a television, computer monitor or some electronic device and it will display a wind speed. Or, wave a magnet (like a refrigerator magnet) back and forth by the Kestrel Meter. If the Kestrel Meter is working properly, you will register a wind speed reading, even though there is no impeller installed. Simply purchase a new impeller and your Kestrel Meter's wind speed readings will be restored to factory calibration.

### **What is the best way to take accurate temperature and humidity readings?**

Avoid taking measurements in direct sunlight, and be sure there is airflow over the sensors. Especially if you expose the Kestrel Meter to a large temperature swing prior to taking a reading (such as taking a Kestrel Meter from the indoors to the outdoors in the winter), airflow over the sensors is necessary to measure accurate temperature and humidity readings. You can ensure airflow by either placing the Kestrel Meter in a breeze, or by waving it back and forth. If no airflow can be provided, you must allow up to 20 minutes for the values to stabilize and accurate readings to be displayed.

### **Why does my screen turn black in the heat? Why does screen become sluggish or blank in the cold?**

The liquid crystal display used in Kestrel Meters has an operational temperature range of -49.0 to 257.0°F (-45.0 to 125.0°C). Above this temperature, the whole screen will turn black. Below this temperature, the liquid crystals will freeze and not display a reading. Even in these conditions, your Kestrel Meter will still continue to measure and record readings as specified by the automatic and manual data storage rates, you will just not be able to read the display until the environment's temperature is within the operational range. In cold environments, you can keep the Kestrel Meter warm in your pocket and remove it only to take readings. Be sure to wave the unit back and forth to create airflow over the sensors to ensure the most accurate reading possible.

### **Why doesn't my Kestrel Meter match the local Weather Report?**

Obtaining a weather report from a local television station, airport or internet site will give you the weather where those instruments are, which is not necessarily the same as where you are. Your Kestrel Meter is measuring the conditions right where you are. The nature of microclimates and weather fronts is that they are varied, and even locations as close as a mile apart can have different weather readings. You can certainly use these weather reporting services for good estimates of what the conditions will be, but for the most accurate readings at your particular location, the Kestrel Meter is better.

## Kestrel® 4250 Racing Weather® Tracker

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

#### KESTREL POCKET WEATHER METERS 5-YEAR LIMITED WARRANTY

NK does not believe in “disposable electronics.” We know that Kestrel Meters don’t typically lead pampered lives, and we design them for years of performance in tough conditions. Every Kestrel is designed and manufactured at NK’s facility in Boothwyn, Pennsylvania, to be the accurate, reliable weather instrument you need for your application. If for any reason you are not satisfied with the performance or operation of your Kestrel meter in the first 30 days, you may return it to your place of purchase for a full refund.

**We guarantee every Kestrel Pocket Weather Meter to be free of defects in materials and workmanship for a period of FIVE YEARS from their date of first consumer purchase.** NK will repair or replace any defective product or part when notified within the warranty period, and will return the product via domestic ground shipping or NK’s choice of method of international shipping at no charge.

**The following shall be excluded from warranty coverage:** damage due to improper use or neglect (including corrosion); damage caused by severe or excessive impact, crushing or mechanical harm; modifications or attempted repairs by someone other than an authorized NK/Kestrel repair agent; impeller failure not caused by a manufacturing defect; normal usage wear; failed batteries; and accuracy issues resolvable by recalibration. Recalibration is provided free of charge within thirty (30) days of purchase if necessary.

**Except for the warranties set forth herein, NK disclaims all other warranties, expressed, implied or statutory, including, but not limited to, the implied warranties of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose. Any implied warranties that may be imposed by applicable law are limited to the term of this warranty. In no event shall NK be liable for any incidental, special or consequential damages, including, but not limited to, loss of business, loss of profits, loss of data or use, whether in an action in contract or tort or based on a warranty, arising out of or in connection with the use or performance of an NK product, even if NK has been advised of the possibility of such damages. You agree that repair, and (upon availability) replacement, as applicable, is your sole and exclusive**

**remedy with respect to any breach of the NK Limited Warranty set forth herein.** All product *liability* and *warranty* options are governed exclusively by the laws of the *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*.

Your warranty period will be measured from your date of purchase. **The best way to ensure full warranty coverage is to REGISTER your NK product promptly on our website: [www.kestrelweather.com](http://www.kestrelweather.com).** We keep your registration information strictly confidential and do not sell it, share it, or use it for anything but product-related information bulletins (which you may decline receiving). If you do not register and cannot provide proof of purchase, your warranty period will be measured from our date of manufacture, determined by serial number.

We request that you contact NK if you feel your product is not working properly. We can often solve product issues by phone or e-mail, saving you the time and expense of returning the unit. If we require the product to be returned, we will issue a Return Authorization to expedite the handling of your warranty claim.

The Kestrel Pocket Weather Meters are covered by the following patents: 5,783,753, 5,939,645, 6,257,074, and 7,059,170.

#### Calibrations, Certifications and Service

Every NK product is tested and calibrated before it leaves our factory. We guarantee that it will perform within specifications when you receive it. Each Kestrel Meter comes with a Certificate of Conformity, with the stated specifications for that product on the back. If you feel an NK product is not meeting specs when you receive it, call us and we’ll make sure you are operating it correctly. If it still appears that it may be out of spec, return it to us within 30 days of purchase and we will test and recalibrate all values at no charge. Beyond 30 days, we offer reasonably-priced tests, calibration services and N.I.S.T. certified calibrations as well as Kestrel Meter tune-ups.

All of our measurements are traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, ensuring the highest level of accuracy. Our primary Calibration Standards are sent for calibration in accordance

## **Kestrel® 4250 Racing Weather® Tracker**

with N.I.S.T. requirements and based on a regular schedule. Only approved laboratories and N.I.S.T. themselves are used for these calibration services. Incoming and outgoing data is supplied with the certificate of calibration.

We also offer full factory service on every product we manufacture for as long as we make the product (and as long after as component availability permits). If we can't repair a product, we will offer you a brand-new replacement under our Customer Care Program (even for accidental damage and misuse). Cost of repairs and other important information can be found on our website.

We request that you contact NK if you feel your product is not working properly. We can often solve product issues by phone or e-mail, saving you the time and expense of returning the unit. If we require the product to be returned, we will issue a Return Authorization to expedite the handling of your claim.

Visit [www.kestrelweather.com](http://www.kestrelweather.com) for more information and pricing for these services.

### **Lifetime Customer Care Warranty**

NK wants you to be an NK customer for life, so we take care of you even beyond the terms of the above warranty with our Customer Care Program. Trade-in any Kestrel Pocket Weather Meter, no matter the age or condition, and receive a generous discount on the replacement product (same model only). Our Customer Care Program applies only as long as we manufacture the product, and does not cover product upgrades.

**Kestrel® Pocket Weather® Meters are designed and manufactured in the USA by:**



#### **NIELSEN-KELLERMAN**

21 Creek Circle, Boothwyn, PA 19061

Phone: (610) 447-1555 Fax: (610) 447-1577

Web: [www.kestrelweather.com](http://www.kestrelweather.com)

Email: [kestrel@nkhome.com](mailto:kestrel@nkhome.com)

Instruction Manual for Kestrel 4250 version: 4.27 ALL  
Please register your Kestrel Meter at [www.KestrelWeather.com](http://www.KestrelWeather.com)



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