

Timex Expedition WS4 Watch on 01/27/2009 20:41:01 MST



Timex unveiled their new WS4 watch at Outdoor Retailer. It represents their entry into the "super watch" category long populated by Suunto, Highgear, Casio, and others. The barometer/compass/thermometer watch has the following features:

- Target Altitude setting and Altitude Alarm
- Graphic Altitude and Barometer displays for at-a-glance review of trends
- Weather Condition Forecast with current temperature and future alerts
- Digital Compass Headings and Digital Needle for quick directions
- 100-Hour Chronograph
- 100-Hour timer with repeat function
- 99-Lap count with display of lap or split time
- Daily, weekday, weekend or weekly alarms
- Water-Resistant to 50 meters
- INDIGLO[®] night-light
- Altitude / barometric pressure / temperature graph



The WS4 is to be available in a variety of colors Spring, 2009 at an MSRP of \$199. The claimed weight is 90 grams.

My take:

Personally, I find the super watches generally heavy and less useful than the individual instruments they are supposed to replace. In particular, the thermometers only give the temperature of your wrist (or inside of your sleeve). And, the electronic compasses lack the precision and sighting capability needed to do any serious navigation -- they're more comparable to zipper-pull compasses.

However, the WS4 seems to have a very nice screen and user interface and appears cost and weight competitive with its rivals. A much lighter and simpler Timex has resided on my own wrist for years -- through many hikes, runs, skis, and swims.