



486 - 228th Avenue NE • Sammamish, WA 98074 • PH: 425-898-0660 • FX: 425-898-0669 • www.ci.sammamish.wa.us

Neighborhood Speed Watch

- The City of Sammamish Neighborhood Speed Watch is a program designed to involve you as a citizen in the process of making your neighborhood and community safer by generating speed awareness to the motoring public.
- This is accomplished by your use of a City provided, handheld radar unit to monitor the speed of traffic in your neighborhood. Drivers will receive instant feedback on their speed via an electronic reader board, or in instances where the reader board is not used, a letter describing the traffic violation is mailed to the registered owner of the vehicle by the Chief of Police and City Engineer.
- Your involvement is limited to operating the radar unit. You are not involved in active measures to slow speeders down, i.e.: you can not yell at, gesture at, chase down and try to stop, or throw things at cars. Regardless of how fast the person is driving, you are allowed only to log the speed and license plate of the vehicle.
- The radar units are user-friendly and easy to use. They work by emitting a radio-wave which is reflected off of a moving object. The radio-wave is returned to the radar unit and registers the speed of the object on the visual display of the unit. An audible tone is also generated and is used to verify the visual observations of the vehicles speed and the speed read out of the radar unit. While radar is a safe device, it does emit electrical energy so it is recommended that it not be directed at yourself, or any other person, for long periods of time.
- The first step in participating in Speed Watch is to thoroughly read this handout and understand all of the information. A short test is included to demonstrate your understanding of the Speed Watch program. Once you have completed the test you will need to contact the Sammamish Police Department Traffic Unit either in person at the station, or by calling 425-836-5674 and asking for the Traffic Unit. A short hands-on session will take place to familiarize you with the radar unit. Depending on which part of the program you want to participate in, you will be able to check out either a radar or a marked Neighborhood Traffic Safety Program vehicle which is equipped with an electronic reader board and radar. You are responsible for the proper use and care of any equipment checked out to you.

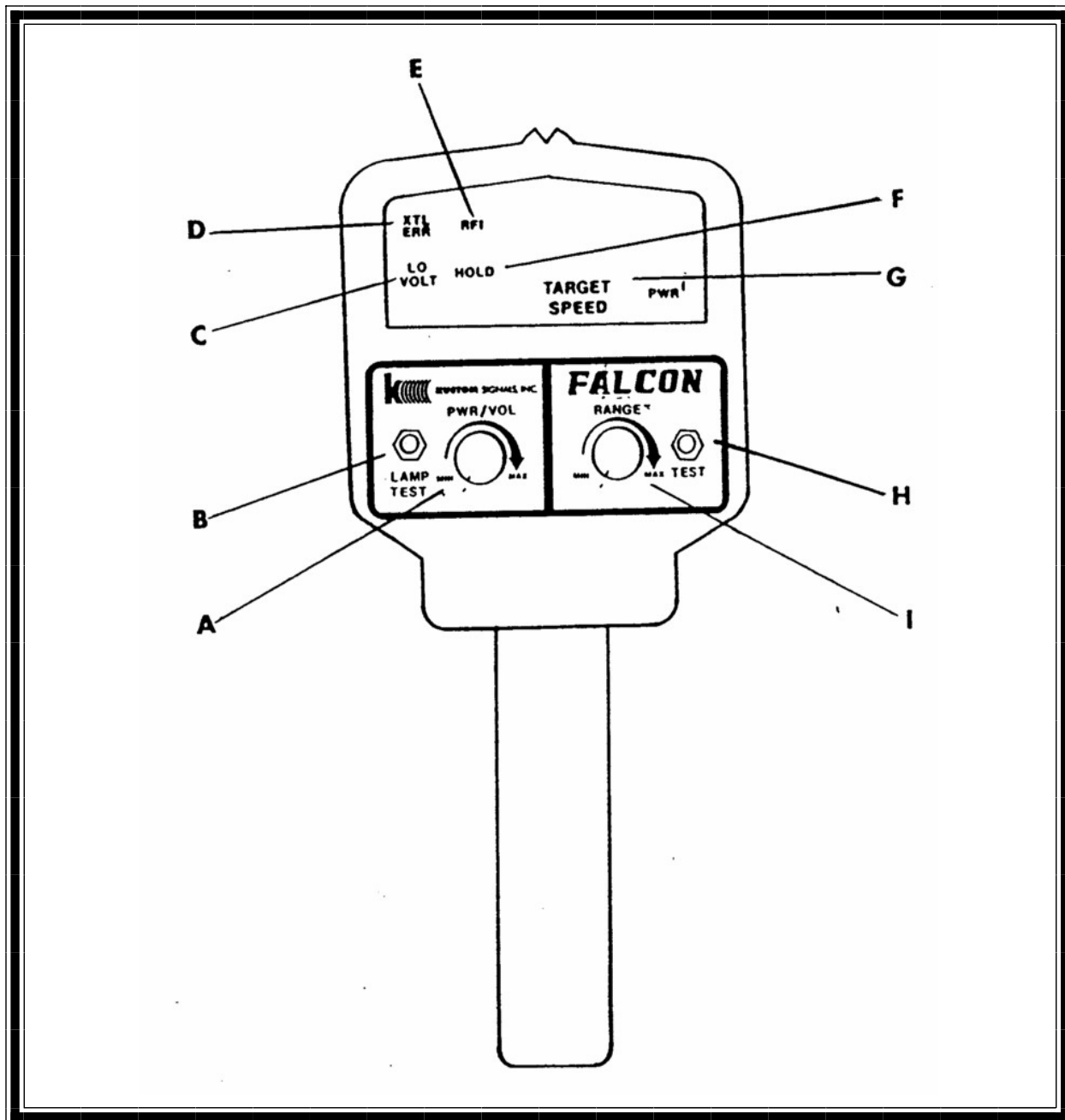
Neighborhood Speed Watch...cont'd

- Once you have the equipment you need to locate a safe location from which to operate the radar. As the radar needs a 12 volt power source you have to have a car for a power source. We do not allow the use of other devices such as a generator or a stand-alone car battery as a power source. Your car will need to be parked so as to be completely off of the roadway and not impede traffic flow or visibility, in other words not blocking the view of an intersection, crosswalk or other hazard. A highly visible traffic vest is provided to you with the radar. You have to wear the vest while operating the radar. Pay close attention to where you position yourself. Make sure that you are visible and are not in the roadway. If others are helping you conduct the survey then they too will need to adhere to these guidelines.
- As radar is an electrical device, it is important that you check it for accuracy each time you set up for operation. This is done by using a vibrating tuning fork for an external check and by depressing a button on the radar unit to perform an internal test.
- You begin the testing process by first locating the Power/Volume switch which is the round knob on the left rear part of the unit. It is marked "Power" and on the left side says "On" and "Vol" on the right side. Make sure that the knob is turned fully to the left. This ensures that it is off. Then plug the cigarette lighter plug into a 12 volt power outlet. Turn the "Power" knob fully to the left. If a small red light isn't on then repeat the first step, ensuring that the power plug is properly seated in the outlet. Next, push the button over "Lamp Test" next to the Power knob. All of the lights in the display window must light up and you should see three 8's. Now make sure that the knob to the right of the Power switch, labeled "Range" is turned fully to the right. Find the word "Hold" on the display. This indicates if the "Hold" feature of the unit is on. There should not be a red light displayed over it. If one is, then depress the blue button on the right front side of the unit. Once the light is out and the hold feature turned off you can begin the testing process.
- The external test is done by turning on the power to the radar unit and then tapping the tuning fork against a non-metallic surface (striking the fork against a hard surface will damage the tuning fork and costs about \$100.00 to replace). While the fork is vibrating hold it up in front of the emitter cone of the radar, the colored glass end of the unit, until a speed is displayed on the unit. The speed that should be displayed is engraved on the tuning fork. The displayed speed must be within 2 MPH+/- of this speed.
- Next check the internal calibration of the unit by depressing the "Test" button which is located to the right of the "Range" button. You should see the number 32 in the display window.

Neighborhood Speed Watch...cont'd

- Congratulations! You have successfully checked the calibration of the radar and are now ready to start checking the speed of passing cars.
- To obtain the speed of a car, you need to hold the radar so that it is emitting its beam towards a car that is either coming towards or away from you. It is important to hold the radar so that it remains fairly parallel to the roadway instead of turning it and following the car with it as it goes by as this will result in obtaining an inaccurate speed. You can use the hold feature to stop the radar from emitting a beam while you are waiting for another car to come by.
- Use the enclosed log sheet to record the speed and license plate number of vehicles you catch speeding. You need to use some measure of discretion when logging violators. While you may want us to contact any speeder in your neighborhood regardless of their speed, we ask that you log those which are 8 - 10 miles an hour and more over the speed limit.
- When you are done with your session of logging violations first turn off the Power knob and then unplug the unit.
- Your completed log sheets will need to be turned in to us along with the equipment you checked out when the loan term ends.
- Again, we want to stress that you are acting merely in the capacity of a collector of information. Representing yourself as a law enforcement officer, or as an agent of the Police Department, or involving yourself in confrontations with violators or being arrested for DUI will result in the denial of your further participation in the Neighborhood Speed Watch Program. It is imperative that you return all loaned items at the specified time as others will be scheduled to use the equipment and will be waiting for it.
- Your help in making your neighborhood safe is greatly appreciated by us. We will be mailing violation notification letters to the registered owners of the cars you logged. Help us to help you by being a frequent participant in the Neighborhood Speed Watch Program. Again, Thanks!

REAR VIEW

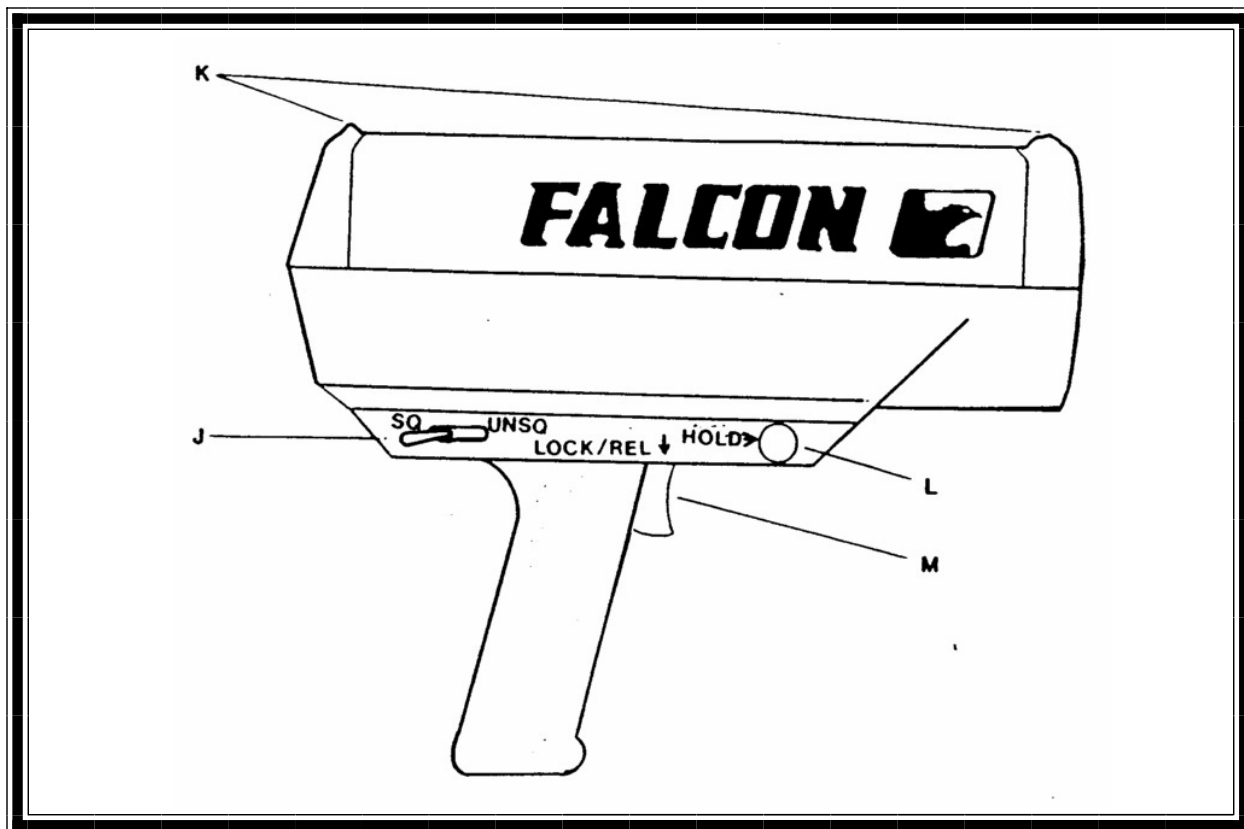


- A. **POWER/VOLUME (PWR/VOL).** Dual purpose control for ON/OFF and target Doppler audio volume.
- B. **LAMP TEST.** When the Lamp Test button is pressed, the system will illuminate all display segments. The display will register “888” and the four LED indicators (XTAL ERR, LO VOLT, RFI, HOLD) will light, indicating proper functioning of all lighting segments.

Controls and Indicators

- C. LOW VOLTAGE INDICATOR (LO VOLT).** When lit, indicates battery voltage has dropped below 10.8 volts, resulting in the inhibiting of further speed measurements and blanking of the target display within 2-3 seconds.
- D. CRYSTAL ERROR (XTAL ERR) INDICATOR.** When lit, indicates dual crystal comparison has failed, resulting in the inhibiting of further speed measurements and the blanking of the target display with 2-3 seconds.
- E. RFI INDICATOR (RFI).** When lit, indicates the presence of strong RF interference, resulting in the inhibiting of further speed measurements and blanking of the target display within 2-3 seconds.
- F. HOLD INDICATOR.** When lit, indicates the HOLD switch has been depressed and the microwave source is turned off. Audio is automatically turned off.
- G. TARGET DISPLAY.** Three full digits which display target speeds between approximately 10 and 199 MPH.
- H. TEST.** Pressing the button causes the radar to perform an internal circuit test resulting in a readout of "32" in the display. This will be accompanied by a brief audio signal. This test readout cannot be locked in by the operator.
- I. RANGE.** Allows the operator to reduce or extend the effective range of the radar. Fully clockwise is the maximum range position.

SIDE VIEW



- J. SQUELCH/UNSQUELCH.** Provides manual override to the normal audio squelch when the display is blank. In the SQ position, audio will only be heard while a target speed is being displayed.

- K. AIMING SIGHTS.** Enables the operator to correctly aim the falcon antenna to obtain maximum effective range.

- L. HOLD.** Pressing this button places the system in the Hold Mode to avoid detection by traffic radar detectors. All microwave emission will be shut off, the display will blank, and the HOLD indicator will light. This button also releases the system from the Hold Mode.

- M. LOCK/RELEASE (TRIGGER).** Pulling the trigger once will lock a target vehicle's speed into the display. The display will flash and a short 500 Hz tone will be heard. Audio is automatically un-squelched while a reading is locked. Pulling the trigger a second time will release a locked-in speed.

NOTE: Some localities do not permit the use of any speed locking function. For this reason, your unit may not be equipped with the Lock/Release capability. (The trigger will be present, but will not be functional.)



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Neighborhood Speed Watch

Name of Radar Operator: _____
Street Address: _____
City, State, Zip Code: _____
Telephone Number (include area code): _____

I, _____, understand that:

- The radar unit and associated accessories, as listed below, have been loaned to me by the City of Sammamish Police Department, as provided by the Neighborhood Watch Speed Program.

Accessories: _____

- The radar unit, which has been loaned to me, is a delicate instrument and must be handled carefully. I will be responsible for protecting it and returning it in good working order. I understand that users must be 21 years of age or older.
- As an operator, I am not a City of Sammamish employee or a law enforcement officer and will not communicate or seek to communicate by my actions or speech that I am.
- I will not attempt to chase, stop, or apprehend drivers, nor will I encourage any other person to do so. No gestures or verbal comments will be made by me, nor will I throw objects at vehicles/drivers.
- I have been trained on the proper usage and safe operations of the radar gun and associated equipment.
- I agree that the radar unit and any associated equipment will be returned on or before the date specified below...

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Return Date and Time: _____ Actual Return: _____

Received By: _____



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<h2>City of Sammamish Radar Operator's Test</h2>	
Printed Name _____	
Signature _____	Date _____

Circle the correct answer: T = True F = False

-
-
- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. It is safe to point the Radar unit at another person for long periods of time. | T | F |
| 2. I should never lay the Radar unit on my lap while it is turned on. | T | F |
| 3. When someone speeds by me terribly fast, I should yell at them. | T | F |
| 4. Chasing and trying to stop speeder is authorized. | T | F |
| 5. I am allowed to enter the police station at any time and take any Radar unit. | T | F |
| 6. It is important to check that the Radar unit is functioning properly. | T | F |
| 7. I should never throw objects at speeding vehicles. | T | F |
| 8. It is not important to get the Radar unit returned on time. | T | F |
| 9. I should document speeds even one mile an hour over the speed limit. | T | F |
| 10. If I get convicted of Driving Under The Influence Of Alcohol, I will no longer be allowed in the Neighborhood Speed Watch Program. | T | F |



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Citizen Radar Operators Neighborhood Speed Watch Offender Vehicle Log

Date: _____ Time Started: _____ Time Ended: _____

Street Observed: _____ Posted Speed Limit:: _____

Weather Conditions (circle one): Clear Overcast Foggy Bright Dry Rainy Icy

Name of Radar Operator: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

No.	License Plate #	Description	Speed	No.	License Plate #	Description	Speed
1				16			
2				17			
3				18			
4				19			
5				20			
6				21			
7				22			
8				23			
9				24			
10				25			
11				26			
12				27			
13				28			
14				29			
15				30			



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DATE

NAME
ADDRESS
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE, ZIP

RE: Neighborhood Speed Watch

Dear:

Your registered vehicle, Washington License _____,
was clocked by radar at _____ MPH in a _____ MPH zone.

This incident occurred on _____
between _____ and _____.

The Citizens of The City of Sammamish, in conjunction with the Sammamish Police Department and the City of Sammamish Public Works Department, are striving to provide a safe community for our residents and visitors. Your compliance with the traffic laws is requested.

This letter is meant only as a warning and no other official action will follow.

Please accept this as a friendly notice to drive safely in all of our city's neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

RICHARD BARANZINI
Chief of Police
City of Sammamish

BEN YAZICI
City Manager
City of Sammamish