



Galeforce Siren by Bike Tac

by Tom Harris, EMSCI #030T/ PCI #861T

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I was quite surprised last November when Charlie Summers called on me to test the Bike Tac Galeforce Police/EMS siren. With a PC course about to begin in Beaumont, Texas, and the Mardi Gras parade season fast approaching, I thought, “this is a great time to test it.” Now mind you, I am not a big “gadget” person but I thought, “hey, why not.” I soon received two Galeforce sirens from Shelley Gale of Bike Tac Designs. One was a handlebar-mount and the other was a rear rack-mount which I eagerly volunteered Wren Nealy of Cypress Creek EMS to test.

I mounted the handlebar-mount on my bike and discovered that I like the way the siren attached to my trusty ol’ steed (Cannondale F 400). I mounted the battery box to the back of the siren using the Velcro included with the mounting hardware. The mounting kit included the handlebar bracket and plenty of zip ties and Velcro to mount it just about any way imaginable. The separate buttons for the wail and horn functions were also very easy to install and use. After getting everything mounted, I tested (played with) the siren in my office, where my counterparts in the adjoining offices were quick to let me know the siren was plenty loud.

I headed to Beaumont to teach the class and test my new toy. I was quickly the envy of the gadget geeks of the class. They loved the sound from the siren and could not believe it was powered with only a 9-volt battery. On the third day of class we experienced four inches of snow and needless to say town and country tires and a boy from South Louisiana do not mix well with snow. I took my usual class fall and the siren broke where the handlebar bracket meets the siren body and the wires pulled loose. After one very short email to Lt. Gale of BikeTac, I promptly received a new siren in the mail with a note stating the mounting bracket had been changed and a new, stronger silicone was used to seal the wires to the siren. Also included was a new bracket for the broken siren. Now, that is great customer service!

I decided to mount the new siren to another bike (Cannondale F5), but the oversized handlebars were too big for the mounting bracket, even using the longer screw provided for that purpose. So with my Cajun ingenuity I managed to mount the siren to the handlebar clamp on the riser utilizing one of the screws on the clamp (see attached picture). I used the siren extensively during the Mardi Gras parades and while teaching several classes and have had only one problem with the battery coming loose from the contacts inside the box, even with the filler foam in place. The siren is still going strong and for the price (around \$50) is a good buy.

If I could make any changes, I would recommend a toggle switch or somehow mark which button does what. I would also like to see the battery connections be free floating, so to speak, with some slack in the wires to connect the battery and then place the battery and wires into the box. I believe this would remedy the problem of the battery coming loose while riding in some rough terrain. The mounting bracket should be large enough to go around oversized handle bars;



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even with the longer screw, the bracket itself did not have enough diameter to go around the handlebar. Overall with a few minor adjustments/changes, this is a very good product and well worth the price.

Bike Tac participates in the IPMBA Product Purchase Program. Contact Shelley Gale at 541-892-5344 or lt.gale@biketac.com, and visit their website at www.biketac.com.

Tom has been a paramedic since 1984, is the Special Operations Supervisor of the 26 member team for East Baton Rouge Parish EMS, and a Deputy Sheriff for Livingston Parish LA. He has been on bikes since 1996 and became an instructor in 1999 at the IPMBA Conference in Chicago. Tom earned his IPMBA IT status at the 2009 IPMBA Conference in Albuquerque. He can be reached at tharris@brgov.com.

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