

## **Volcanic Manufacturing**

### **A New Public Safety Bike Rolls onto the Scene**

**by John Washington, PCI #461T/EMSCI #037T**

*University of Pennsylvania Police (PA)*

After speaking with Eric and Matt from Volcanic Manufacturing at the 2005 IPMBA Conference in Scottsdale, Ariz., and riding their bike around at the show, I decided to contact them to find out more. Their recently introduced public safety bicycle had been adopted by the Seattle Police Department, but was unheard of on the East Coast. So in the interest of marketing and R&D, they agreed to ship me a model for evaluation.

I am glad that I made the inquiry and was given the opportunity to “wear-test” the bicycle. In addition to riding the bicycle myself, I took it to three IPMBA bike training sessions – one police and two EMS – to obtain the non-biased opinion of the bike from new riders. The Volcanic, available in either white or black frame, came complete with top-of-the-line components.

Sporting SRAM-9 rapid fire shifters (grip shift is also an option) matched up to LX/XT front/rear derailleurs and a 44-tooth big chain ring, the gearing system operated smoothly at all times, even with the additional weight carried in panniers by the EMS personnel. Equipped with Marzocchi Bomber front shocks, a Cane Creek threadless headset, Avid disc brakes (160mm calipers) and industry standard Continental Town and Country tires, the bike handled more than competently in all phases of use.

Stair ascent and descents, static and dynamic dismounts, curb-hopping, trail riding, performing quick-turns and emergency braking drills, and general riding on the road presented no challenges for the Volcanic. The bike was nimble and maneuverable and held up to the rigors of the various crash survival skills that the officers were taught, including “crashes” into fixed objects and being pitched over the handle bars.

The only minor issue we encountered was during our attempt to equip the bike with pannier bags for use during the EMS class. The tapered struts of the gear rack that was supplied with the bike did not prevent the bags from contacting the disc brake caliper. A simple change-out to a different manufacturer’s rack quickly solved the problem.

Volcanic bicycles can be ordered with various features, depending on the needs of the rider and the department. Several levels and types of shifters are available, and it can be equipped with either regular platform pedals or a clipless pedaling system. During the course of the evaluation, Eric from Volcanic remained open to our comments – they are clearly interested in providing a top-of-the-line public safety performance bicycle, and in my opinion, they have achieved that goal.

While some departments might not have the financial ability to step up to a top-of-the-line bicycle like that produced by Volcanic Manufacturing, there is no doubt that it is an excellent performer and worth the costs in the long run. I look forward to their continued involvement in the public safety bicycle field.

For more information, call 360-943-8613, email [info@volcanicbikes.com](mailto:info@volcanicbikes.com), or visit [www.volcanicbikes.com](http://www.volcanicbikes.com).

## Volcanic Bicycles

	<b>Beta</b>	<b>Alpha</b> <i>(upgrades appear in italics)</i>
<b>Frame</b>	Volcanic (5 year warranty)	Volcanic (5 year warranty)
<b>Fork</b>	Rock Shox Judy J2	<i>Marzocchi MX Comp</i>
<b>Headset</b>	Cane Creek STS (ball bearing)	<i>Cane Creek S1 (sealed cartridge bearing)</i>
<b>Riser Bar</b>	Truvativ Hussefelt	Truvativ Hussefelt
<b>Stem</b>	Truvativ XR	Truvativ XR
<b>Seatpost</b>	Truvativ XR	Truvativ XR
<b>Bottom Bracket</b>	Truvativ XR	Truvativ XR
<b>Cranks</b>	Truvativ Hussefelt	Truvativ Hussefelt
<b>Disc Brakes</b>	SRAM BB5	<i>SRAM BB7</i>
<b>Brake Levers</b>	SRAM FR5	SRAM FR5
<b>Trigger Shifters</b>	SRAM X7	<i>SRAM X9</i>
<b>Rear Derailleur</b>	SRAM X7	SRAM X7
<b>Front Derailleur</b>	SRAM X Gen	SRAM X Gen
<b>Cassette</b>	SRAM	SRAM
<b>Saddle</b>	WTB Speed V	WTB Speed V
<b>Hubs</b>	Shimano Deore disc hubs with Sun Rhyno Lite XL rims	<i>Shimano XT disc hubs with Sun Rhyno Lite XL rims</i>
<b>Tires</b>	Cross	<i>Continental Town &amp; Country (and other options)</i>
<b>Grips</b>	Serfas	Serfas
<b>Pedals</b>	Redline with plastic toe clips	<i>Shimano 424 Clipless (other options available)</i>
<b>Rear Rack</b>	Planet Bike Eco Rack	Planet Bike Eco Rack
<b>Water Bottle Cages</b>	Planet Bike (2)	Planet Bike (2)
<b>Kickstand</b>	Rearmount	Rearmount
<b>Cost</b>	\$1199.99	<i>\$1499.99</i>

*John joined the University of Pennsylvania Police Department in 1988. He has been assigned to the bike patrol since its inception in March 1991. He has trained some 700 police, security, and EMS bike personnel from 75 agencies in the United States, Argentina, Australia, and Canada. He has won 12 gold medals in the Pennsylvania Police Olympics in running and mountain bike events and several medals in the International Law Enforcement Games. He also has 25 years of service in the fire, EMS, and hazardous materials fields. He can be reached at [johnfw@publicsafety.upenn.edu](mailto:johnfw@publicsafety.upenn.edu).*

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