

THE TEAM AT BRITE-STRIKE HAS SET OUT TO LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE.

People are endlessly inventive. Just when you think “they’ve made it all,” something like the airplane comes along. And then the computer, smartphone, and self-driving car. Here in the early morning of the 21st century, we’re so used to frequent, radical change that we overlook a lot of bright ideas. Like Glenn Bushee’s.

As a police officer, Glenn Bushee knew what he needed to light up his life. So he and his fellow officer Jon Neal started Brite-Strike Tactical Illumination Products. They engineered the kind of bright, rugged, multi-purpose tactical flashlights they needed to do their jobs. You know the type: waterproof, shockproof, anodized aluminum with intensely focused, bright, white LED beams, strobe option, and crenellated edges for applying tactical force. Ouch.

They kept prices low and quality high and were soon doing a brisk business that spilled into the military, search and rescue . . .

And then Brite-Strike went to the dogs. And camping and fishing and hunting and . . .

Today Brite-Strike Technologies, Inc. provides innovative lighting for just about every illuminating and signaling need an outdoorsman might have.

I first discovered Brite-Strike through its APALS (All Purpose Adhesive Light Strips) at a SHOT show. Silly. Flat little rectangles about half the size of a stick of chewing gum with a tiny LED lamp in their center, an adhesive strip on the back, and a “press here” on-off switch that cycles through flashing, strobe, and constant on. Red, green, blue, yellow, or white. Looked like one of those throw-away gimmicks used at shows to attract attention. It was. Attracting attention is the whole idea behind waterproof APALS, which are, it turns out, quite useful.

“Our latest models run for 200 hours and can be seen as far as two miles,” Bushee told me. “Great for marking what you want to find.” And what might that be? How about the route to your deer or bear stand in unfamiliar woods? Peel off

the backing and stick an APALS on the stand or enough trees to mark a clear route. With that 200-hour run time, they’ll last a week. Got a deer down at dark? Lay an APALS trail out to the truck. Grab them on your final pack out and use them again the next time.

Need to see what’s in your tackle box or cooler? Peel and stick an APALS or two inside and light up your job site. Stick an APALS near your trailer hitch and press to see the plugs in the dark. Paste one near the front door to make it easier to get the key in the lock. With a 200-hour run time, it could last a year, and it’s always in the right spot at the right time.

If you’re canoeing from a remote lake campsite to fish at dusk, stick a flashing APALS at your takeout point for easy guidance back. I once pitched a small backpack tent on flat caribou tundra and barely found it that evening. I had to repeatedly drop to the ground and look toward the horizon before finally catching the roofline against the lighter sky. How much easier it would have been if I’d had an APALS flashing from the top.



I now keep a pack of these handy little lights in my truck, arming a couple fore and aft on the roof before the dogs and I stride into those wonderfully endless sharptail plains of Alberta or Montana.

Your dogs will be a lot easier to keep track of—or relocate if they run off (hey, it could happen)—if you decorate them with an Ultimate Lighted Dog Collar. Yup, just what you think. LED lights within the orange collar, sewn in with reflective thread for additional visibility. The small battery pack is solar charged in eight hours while Bluestreak runs all day, but you can also

charge it through a USB port in three hours. Run time is 2½ hours. I can remember a long night searching western Dakota CRP fields that could have been prevented by this collar.

Fishermen began rigging Brite-Strikes on their plugs and lines, so now Brite-Strike produces a full spectrum of Line Lights Lure Illuminators. Jimmy Houston Signature Series, no less. Multiple colors and even infrared. There's also a Rod Tip Strike Alert Light and a floating Lighted Fishing Band for attracting catfish and crappie or pulling a swarm of nocturnal

insects to the water.

A similar light band is marketed as the Brite-Rescue Lighted Signaling System. According to a veteran helicopter life flight nurse I know, this thing has the right stuff. Rolled into its neoprene belt pouch, it measures just 1½ by 5 inches and weighs three ounces. Unrolled, the orange, floating, polyethylene band extends ten feet and holds an array of glow-in-the-dark safety strips, radar-reflective tape, and six APALS-AIR LED reflective light strips in International Amber for rescue signaling. Tie it between trees or let it flap like a streamer. Stretch it out on the ground, drag it behind a boat. Each APALS will run for 200 hours. Alternate them and you've got 1,200 hours run time.

If you suspect this is all Bushee and Brite-Strike have to light up your world, your suspicions are unfounded. The Brite Blade Lighted Survival Knife joins a long line of "survival knives," but this 5-inch folder might actually live up to its name. The 3½-inch, titanium-infused clip blade is 440C Stainless Steel. There's a half-serrated blade option.

Each aluminum handle has a spring steel belt clip, a seat belt cutting and bark stripping blade, and a carbide striking point (perfect for breaking safety glass).

And here's the kicker: There's a Ferrocium fire striker rod and (you knew this was coming) a mini flashlight in the spine of the handle. If this strikes you as a little too cloak-and-dagger cute, a little too MacGyver—wait until you try it. This isn't exactly a classic, bone-handled, Damascus skinning knife, but it's surprisingly functional—and you don't have to hold a flashlight in your mouth while gutting that buck.

I suffered "Herter's World Famous" flashbacks while researching Brite-Strike products, but these are not overly hyped gimmicks. They are well-built, well-thought-out, and they really work. Dozens of Brite-Strike Special Ops products not enumerated here are used by our military and police, and if it's good enough for them . . .

Finally, you gotta love the enthusiasm and creative energy of Bushee and his Brite-Strike team. They're out to light up your life. ■



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