

## Gator Customs and Akuma Helmets debut the Wolfpack helmet and a matching R6

Story by Beth Dolgner // Photos by Randy Korwin

When the U.S. Navy's VF-1 fighter squadron adopted the name "Wolfpack," it set a chain of events in motion that, decades later, would result in a Wolfpack-themed Yamaha R6 from Gator Customs.

The leap from squadron to sportbike is bridged by Akuma Helmets' Kerry Harris. After serving as a Navy pilot himself, Harris now uses military themes for a lot of the designs gracing Akuma Helmets. What really sets Akuma apart is its patented Integrated Power System, a lightweight rechargeable battery that powers LEDs inserted into the Akuma models.

Akuma is making waves in the helmet market with its illuminated lids, but when it comes to illuminating bikes, Gator Customs is the undisputed king. The shop's legendary Gator Glass™ allows entire panels of bodywork to glow, and the shop has incorporated everything from movie scenes to logos into its customs.

When Gator's Randy Kleber went to Dealer Expo in February 2008, he had one very important item on his agenda. "I went there with the sole purpose of talking to helmet manufacturers about adding our Gator Glass™ to production-level helmets because we know that visibility is a top priority for motorcyclists. I think having an illuminated helmet is a huge thing because it's the highest point on a rider and the most visible. And why not just have some lights up there, but illuminate your graphics or logo, too," says Kleber.

After making the rounds of many big-name helmet manufacturers, Kleber didn't find any companies who had the vision and innovation he sought. Enter Akuma and Kerry Harris. Kleber immediately saw the potential, and he says, "With his patented rechargeable battery system for the helmets and our patented Gator Glass™, it was just a good

conglomeration of two patents that would work well in the industry."

Initially, the intent was for Akuma to offer helmets that incorporated Gator Glass™ powered by the Integrated Power System. As interest grew, though, both companies realized that their scope was too narrow. They formed a company called GI Innovations as a way to make the technology available to everyone in the industry.

As if that wasn't enough, there will soon be

universal helmets available for consumers, offering easy and inexpensive customization.

"With Gator Licensing, we'll be licensing Gator Glass™ to shops around the United States," says Kleber. "We'll set up a network of Gator Glass™ shops so when these universal helmets come out, they'll be shipped directly to these licensed shops. The helmets will be all set up and illuminated, and the only thing the shop will have to do is paint on a custom logo. So a customer can come in, get their standard helmet, and paint their specific logo on the side. Then everyone can have their own custom helmet with an illuminated logo on it, and it will still meet the DOT and Snell standards."

Before all of that happens, though, the new Akuma G-Series Wolfpack helmet will be hitting shelves as the first readily-available lid to offer

Gator Glass™. The vivid Wolfpack logo used by the Navy squadron will glow red, blue or green at the flick of a switch.

With such a monumental joint venture, it only made sense for Gator Customs to build a bike to promote the new Wolfpack helmet as a way of kicking things off. The Wolfpack R6 is painted to match the helmet, with Gator Glass™ aplenty. The Wolfpack logos on the windscreen, side panels and tail all illuminate, as do the "ejection" stencils on each side.



The Wolfpack logo represents one of the most famous fighter squadrons in the US Navy, being the first to fly the F-14 of Top Gun fame.



Trick CRG levers allow plenty of adjustment to tailor the riders cockpit to their personal tastes.



Race-quality GPR damper and AnT Racing rear camera system provide extra control and vision for the pilot.



GATOR  
GLASS  
EDITION



# Mission Accomplished



**“As daily riders themselves, the team at Gator prefers parts that function well, and performance mods were a fitting addition for a bike that is modeled after a fighter jet.”**



**G**ator Customs is also using the R6 to introduce some new products, including a clear heel guard that glows blue. Customers will be able to order the clear heel guards either standard or with a logo etched onto the surface, and a variety of light colors will be available.

As daily riders themselves, the team at Gator prefers parts that function well, and performance mods were a fitting addition for a bike that is modeled after a fighter jet. Leo Vince donated a full exhaust, adding horsepower and a throaty growl (or would that be a wolf howl?). Other mods include a GPR V4 steering damper and an AnT Systems camera.

The R6 went from stock to show-ready in only 12 days, including all of the Gator Glass™ on the bodywork. With such a short timeframe, the Gator team had to rely on their partners in the industry. Nick Anglada from Custom Sportbike Concepts came through with a set of Performance Machine Contrast-Cut Domino wheels, wave rotors and an R1-spec 240 swingarm, which was modified to fit the R6 frame. “Nick has been a great partner with us. He shares the same values with us with how to relate to customers. The guys at CSC have been really good friends to us and we do a lot of business with them,” says Kleber.

In addition to the swingarm, a lot of parts had to be modified to fit the middleweight machine. The front wheel wouldn't even fit without a new set of spacers and hubs, but Kleber enjoys building a bike that involves more than simply bolting on parts.



Providing the arrester-hook-like braking is a set of the latest Superbike Wave rotors from Galfer on chrome carriers.

# Mission Accomplished


**B**uilding a 600 allowed Kleber and the Gator team to do just that, since many parts weren't readily available. "I ride my bike every day, so after riding a couple of 600s I just liked how small and agile and really easy they are to cruise around on, and people haven't really played out the 600s," he says. "It's something new for people to look at, with the new body style and the fact that people haven't done everything to those bikes yet."



Puig frame-sliders come in handy whenever the pilot has to hit the eject button.



# Mission Accomplished

The Gator Customs/Akuma Wolfpack R6 debuted at the Boz Bros Yamaha Custom Sportbike Show, where big crowds and even a local TV station flocked to the two-wheeled Navy squadron homage. With the Cycle World International Motorcycle Show season beginning, the R6's mission is to spread the word about the new G-Series Wolfpack helmet. Just call it a promotional tour of duty. 



LeoVince SBK exhaust system provides the roar of a fighter jet and the power to match.



Super clean details abound, like the matched LED heel guards and the powdercoated swingarm.

## SPECS: 2006 Wolfpack Yamaha YZF-R6

### BUILDER / OWNER:

Gator Customs ([www.GatorCustoms.net](http://www.GatorCustoms.net))  
Akuma Helmets ([www.AkumaHelmets.com](http://www.AkumaHelmets.com))  
Custom Sportbike Concepts  
([www.cscbikes.com](http://www.cscbikes.com))

**CHASSIS:** Custom-fit Trac 240 kit, Performance Machine Domino Contrast-Cut wheels, Pirelli tires, white pearl frame and swingarm by Gator Customs

**BODY:** Gator Glass™ clear illuminated heel guards and sprocket cover, Gator Glass™ passenger peg covers, Greggs Customs turn signals and mirror block-offs, CRG shorty levers, Yana Shiki chrome 3D reservoir cap and billet kickstand, Vortex two-piece gas cap and rear sprocket, carbon-wrapped seat, Puig frame sliders, Pro-Bolt bar ends and Tasty Nuts bolt kit

**ENGINE:** Leo Vince full exhaust with carbon

fiber muffler, Power Commander III

**PAINT:** Custom Wolfpack paint with Gator Glass™ by Gator Customs

**OTHER:** GPR V4 steering stabilizer, Galfer Superbike chrome front rotors, Galfer steel-braided brake lines, Star rear wave rotor, AnT Systems rearview camera, Pro-Bolt fork adjuster, matching Akuma G-Series Wolfpack illuminated helmet

