

# The New Fred Fish Memorial Award for 6 Meters



**Fred Fish, W5FF (SK), was a renowned VHF+ operator who remains the only ham to have worked all grid squares in the continental US on 6 meters.**

At their meeting in Houston this past January, the ARRL Board of Directors approved a motion to honor the late Fred Fish, W5FF, by creating a 6 meter achievement award in his honor. A fixture on the VHF+ bands for decades, Fish is the only amateur who worked and confirmed all 488 grid squares in the 48 contiguous United States on 6 meters. The Fred Fish Memorial Award will be awarded to any amateur who can duplicate W5FF's accomplishment.

Fish, along with his wife Lee, K5FF, were among the first amateurs to achieve many prestigious VHF+ accomplishments, including Worked All States on 50 MHz-432 MHz and 6 meter DXCC. They are both regarded in the VHF+ community as exemplary amateur operators who always had time to assist others in their VHF pursuits. Fred Fish

became a Silent Key in 2005.

The award was conceived by a small group of VHF+ operators who wanted to honor Fred Fish and his accomplishment, including Bill Van Alstyne, W5WVO; Paul Kiesel, K7CW; Sean Kutzko, KX9X, and Kevin Kaufhold, W9GKA. Once the details were worked out, the idea was presented to the ARRL, who agreed to sponsor the award.

The FFMA is an "all-or-nothing" award. You must submit confirmation of 2-way contact with all 488 grid squares on 50 MHz in order to qualify. There are no endorsements and no recognized tiers of progression. Any mode may be used. The rules for the award will strictly follow the rules of the ARRL VUCC program. Of particular importance is VUCC Rule 6, which states that all QSOs submitted for credit must be made within the same 200 km circle. This prohibits a station in Oklahoma from submitting grids worked while on vacation in North Carolina, for example. While the award is open to all Amateurs worldwide, W/V E applicants must be a member of ARRL to

participate, as per VUCC rule 1a.

A numbered and dated plaque will be awarded to each person who qualifies for the award. The ARRL Board of Directors also voted that FFMA #1 be awarded posthumously to W5FF and be presented to Fred's wife, Lee Fish, K5FF.

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, will oversee the administration of the award at ARRL HQ. "We hope this will stimulate the activation of rare grid squares in the 48 contiguous United States, both by getting a grid's native amateur population interested in operating 6 meters and by so-called "Grid DXpeditions," or extended portable operations from a rare grid," Kutzko said. "We also hope the Fred Fish Memorial Award will help increase 6 meter activity throughout the continent and the world."

Any questions regarding the Fred Fish Memorial Award may be directed to Sean Kutzko at [kx9x@arri.org](mailto:kx9x@arri.org). Complete details of the award may be found at [www.arri.org/awards](http://www.arri.org/awards).

***We hope the Fred Fish Memorial Award will help promote 6 meter activity throughout the continent and the world.***