James A. Carmody EI8KB / NN50 1945-2014

James A. Carmody passed away December 6, 2014 after a short battle with cancer. Jim was an astute lawyer and arbiter by profession and had a longtime interest in ham radio and his Irish heritage. He is survived by his wife Tippy, daughter Leigh Carmody, son Paul Carmody, daughter-in-law Teresa Carmody, granddaughters Emma and Zoe Carmody, brother Jerry Carmody (KN6WE), sister-in-law Dian Carmody, nephews Jerrod (KG5BOU) and Zephan Carmody, and nieces Suzanne and Michelle Stroebe



Jim was a member of Texas DX Society, and was an avid DX'er and loved DXpeditioning, especially from his ancestral home in Ireland where he held the call signs EI2VNO, and later his lifetime call EI8KB. He was active from Caherciveen during several CQWW-SSB and ARRL-DX contests.

Jim's visits to Ireland would see him hiring out a campervan and return to his favorite place for contesting, which was Mannix Point, Caherciveen, County Kerry. His last trip here was for the CQWW-SSB contest on 26/27th Oct 2013. Torrential rain and strong winds over that weekend did not deter Jim, as he worked 861 QSO's on 10M band only, using his Sigma–40XK multiband vertical, with the Diamond BB7V multiband vertical as a backup, and his using his FLEX 6300 SDR.

During Jim's yearly visits to Caherciveen, he became great friends with members of Kerry Amateur Radio Group, especially John EI9JO who was always on hand to assist Jim in preparation for the contest, and to extend a "Cead Mile Failte" welcome to Jim in enjoying some local hospitality during his downtime before and after the contests. Jim generously donated the BB7V vertical to KARG during his 2013 trip. Jim was already planning a return to Ireland in 2014, before his illness, but sadly never made it.

Shown below are some QSL cards exchanged between Jim and John (EI9JO) on his last visit.

The EI8KB QSL shows the operating position at Mannix Point, Caherciveen used by Jim.

The NN5O QSL card shows the view from front door at Jim's home QTH, at The Woodlands, Texas.

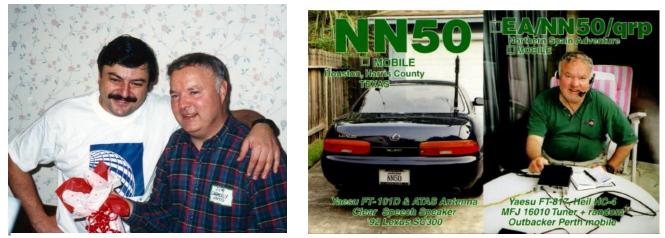


In 1983 Jim operated as FP0HXP from St. Pierre & Miquelon. Jim was one of the first American hams to obtain a license in Czechoslovakia where he operated as OK8AGG during the 1989 ARRL DX Phone Contest. His last DXpedition was in March 2014 when he operated from Belize as V31JA.



One of Jim's favorite rigs was an Elecraft KX3 all-mode ultra-portable transceiver running 12 watts which he used on several of his trips. Many times he would manage to set-up his station in many of the hotels where he stayed and made QSO's as far away as Japan. He was often just above the noise floor here, but always managed to make the QSO. Jim never forgot his ham radio beginnings and still treasured his Hammarlund HQ-129X receiver while still embracing the newest technology with his new FLEX 6300, and running remote with a TS-480SAT to his friend Nizar - K0NM's ranch.

With his love for international travel and reaching out to everyone he met, Jim also became friends with Russian cosmonaut (pictured below). Jim had made several QSO's with NASA and had a strong interest in space programs.



Musa Manarov U2MIR (left) with Jim

During the past year Jim achieved #1 DXCC Honor Roll - Mixed with 340/350 entities confirmed. His 10-10 number was 7272 received in 1972. He received YLISSB number 8044 in 1969 under his then call sign WB6BHN/VO1.

May he Rest in Peace