

IN MEMORY OF VIKTOR EFIMOVICH BORODACHOV



05.06.1928 — 04.01.2021

Viktor Efimovich Borodachov, glaciologist, ice forecaster, Arctic geographer, former lead researcher of the Arctic and Antarctic Research Institute passed away on January 4, 2021, at the age of 92.

Viktor was born on June 5, 1928 in a large peasant family in the village of Vinnitsa, Leningrad region. During WWII, when he was a teenager, he experienced all the difficulties of evacuation due to the proximity to the front.

From 1953 after graduating from the Faculty of Oceanology of the Higher Arctic Maritime School named after Admiral S.O. Makarov he worked as a hydrologist, senior hydrologist, head of the research and operations group of the Arctic Research Observatory, Dikson Island. From 1963 to 2008 he worked in the AARI department of ice regime and forecasts in the positions of engineer, researcher and head of the ice regime laboratory.

In the 1960s – 1980s, Viktor annually participated in the AARI expeditions to the Arctic, regularly headed the scientific and operational teams at the headquarters of maritime operations on the Northern Sea Route, as an instructor of ice air reconnaissance he was engaged in the introduction of the new types of helicopters, coordinated and supervised the AARI ice charting activities in the Arctic.

Viktor is the author of more than 70 research papers and books in the field of sea ice studies - on ice regime, forecasting techniques, on the structure of the sea ice cover of the Arctic Ocean. In the 1970s and 1980s, under his leadership, the ice regime laboratory developed the first “Atlas of the ice regime of the Arctic Ocean”, which eventually became the basis of the electronic EWG Joint U.S.-Russian Arctic Sea Ice Atlas (2000) and the world’s largest collection of the digital ice charts maintained by AARI.

In 2001, the results of the institute’s ice aviation activities were summarized by Viktor (together with Vasily Shilnikov) in the monograph “The history of aerial ice reconnaissance in the Arctic and ice-covered seas of Russia, 1914–1993”. Viktor’s passion for accuracy and meticulousness in the description of ice phenomena and processes found its ultimate expression in the “Dictionary of Sea Ice Terms”, published in 1994 by Viktor together with his friends – Vladislav Gavrilov, Mikhail Kazansky and Willy Weeks.

Viktor’s achievements were honored by federal awards, certificates and acknowledgements from the Ministry of Transport and Shipping Companies working in the Arctic. Viktor is a representative of a galaxy of outstanding polar explorers who established the basis for qualitative and quantitative description of the Arctic ocean and atmosphere in the 1960s and 1980s. His contribution to sea ice studies is enormous.