
OBITUARY

In Memoriam: Gennady Aleksandrovich Fonarev October 8, 1933–October 13, 2010

DOI: 10.1134/S0016793211020101



One of the oldest employees of the Institute of Terrestrial Magnetism, the Ionosphere, and Radio Wave Propagation, Russian Academy of Sciences (IZMIRAN) and the Geoelectromagnetic Research Center, Russian Academy of Sciences (TsGEMI IFZ RAN) passed away October 13, 2010, after a long illness Gennady Aleksandrovich Fonarev began his work at IZMIRAN in 1956 after graduating from Leningrad State University, where he majored in geophysics and studies of the Earth's electromagnetic field. He worked in this area ever since.

At IZMIRAN, Fonarev worked in the laboratory and later in the department of the Earth's electromagnetic field, which subsequently was transformed into the department of marine electromagnetic studies.

A young and talented scientist was introduced into the group working on a special topic under contract with the Ministry of Defense. In this, Fonarev entered the field of the oceanic physics. He conducted a number of theoretical

studies of oceanic telluric currents and their electromagnetic properties. He patented a method for gradient electromagnetic sounding of the seabed, which has found wide use. He developed what was in fact a new branch of geophysics—oceanic geoelectrics.

In 1961 and 1962 he worked on the drifting polar station Severniy polus-10, which drifted in the proximity of the then recently discovered underwater Lomonosov Ridge. There he performed his first experimental studies of the magnetotelluric probing of the Central Arctic Lithosphere.

Based on this excellent and productive work, Fonarev received his candidate's degree in 1965 and his doctoral degree in 1984. In 2004 he became a professor.

In recent years Fonarev had been developing ideas on magnetic gradientometry using mobile platforms, from towed sea platforms to the satellite-based ones.

He authored more than 160 scientific works and was a candidate dissertation advisor to ten junior researchers.

Fonarev was widely known and respected by all his colleagues both in Russia and abroad for his kindness and solicitousness.

His thoughtful approach to research, be it work in his office, in the tent on a drifting ice floe, or his cabin aboard a scientific research vessel, always led him to new, sometimes unexpected results.

Fonarev was a member of High Attestation Committee of the Russian Federation, a member of scientific counsels of TsGEMI IFZ RAN and IZMIRAN, and he earned wore the title of “Honored Scientist”. He worked until his final day.

Friends and colleagues sincerely mourn the passing of dear Gennady Aleksandrovich. We deeply express our sympathies to his family in their grief.