

"Bi-polar" Dennis Stossel sends us Pictures of Antarctica

In his new position as advisor, Polar Affairs, long-time AES High Arctic Weather Station expert Dennis Stossel, based at Central Region (Winnipeg), makes many presentations on the Canadian Arctic, ranging from summaries of scientific projects to reports on how to overcome feelings of isolation among personnel working above the Arctic Circle.

During 1988 Mr. Stossel has been on a month-long familiarization tour to Antarctica and has attended an Antarctic conference in Tasmania, Australia. The former, carried out nearly a year ago, included visits to research and/or meteorological stations run by up to a dozen countries, from Poland to Chile (including an advanced Spanish base doing ozone studies). We publish these photographs taken either by or of Mr. Stossel during his odyssey.



Dennis Stossel presents a work on the Canadian Inuit to the commander of Argentina's Jubany Base, (Potter's Cove, King George Island), designated as a "site of special scientific interest" mainly because of its diverse fauna and vegetation.



In order to reach the various Antarctic stations, some run by the Argentine government or National Arctic Institute (DNA), others run by signatory countries of the Antarctic Treaty, Mr. Stossel travelled thousands of kilometers by plane and ship. Taken from the deck of the Argentine icebreaker/supply vessel Bahia Paraiso, he took photographs of "monster" ice floes, far larger and thicker than those found in the Arctic.



The best known, and most spectacular form of Antarctic wildlife is of course the penguin. There are 21 species of this flightless bird whose black and white coloring make them look as if they're wearing tuxedos.



One of the most awe-inspiring events of his Antarctic tour was his visit to Deception Island on the west coast of the Antarctic Peninsula. It is the scene of an active volcano, (last eruption 1970). The picture taken of Dennis shows him standing on a beach strewn with volcanic ash. During the volcano, Chilean, British and Norwegian bases were destroyed and the Argentine base, though only partially destroyed, is now used strictly as a summer station.



Stossel's Antarctic journey really began in Buenos Aires, where he gave most of his briefings on the Canadian Arctic. He also had the opportunity of touring the Argentine Weather Service, run (with civilian support) by the Air Force section of the Ministry of Defence. He is seen here with the Meteorologists' shift supervisor.

Note: Dennis Strossel, along with Dr. Peter Suedfeld, dean of the faculty of Graduate Studies, University of British Columbia, were invited to make a "Transpolar Research Opportunities Survey" trip by Dr. Jorge P. Bernaldez of Buenos Aires, director General Coordination for Antarctic Research Programs and Operations.



Despite their inability to fly, penguins use their wings as flippers. One of the birds in this picture is seen flapping its wings as if about ready to take off! All the penguins are of the Adelle species, the most common kind.