

## TIPPY D'AURIA – Ocala, Florida

Tippy (aka “Celestial Pirate”) is the founder of the Winter Star Party which is sponsored by the Southern Cross Astronomical Society and has been chairman of that star party for thirteen of its twenty five years. Tippy D’Auria is an international speaker and has lectured on astronomy at many universities and astronomy clubs. He has been a guest speaker at the Winter Star Party on eighteen different occasions and has also been a speaker at events such as the Texas Star Party, Mt. Kobau Star Party, Southern Star Conference, Hidden Hollow Astronomy Convention, Peach State Star Gaze, Starfest Convention, Highlands Star Gaze, Nebraska Star Party, Chiefland Star Party, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of Central American Astronomers.

In 1987 and 1988 he was awarded the Southern Cross Astronomical Societies “Joe T. Doris Service Award for Outstanding Contributions”. In 1992 he was honored with a Lifetime Membership to the Southern Cross Astronomical Society for Meritorious Service to that Society. In 2001, Tippy received recognition for his contributions to amateur astronomy, as he was honored by the International Astronomical Union, when an asteroid was given the name “11378 DAuria.” He received the 2007 Astronomical League Award for his many contributions to the astronomical community and in 2008 he received the Astronomy Outreach Award in recognition for his contributions for public outreach and education.

In April of 2001, Tippy led an expedition to the Volcanoes of Costa Rica to film a National Geographic documentary called “The Volcano Hunters”. In June of 2001, Tippy joined an elite group of some of the world’s best planetary astronomers on a mission to record a predicted flash on the red planet. This is the only existing video sequence of this event which made the IAU circulars and headlines throughout the global astronomical community. He is also the author of numerous articles and papers and co-authored, along with Vic Menard, the definitive book on telescope collimation, “Perspectives on Collimation – Principles and Procedures”.

We are honored to have Tippy D’Auria share with us his famous lecture “A New Way to Measure Astronomical Distances”.