

# FREELY SPEAKING

Space Coast Freethought Association

May 2007

## Meeting May 3

Join us for our next meeting on **Thursday, May 3**, at 6:30 p.m., at **Back Bay Seafood Restaurant** in celebration of the National Day of Reason. Back Bay Seafood Restaurant is located at 4910 Stack Blvd., in Melbourne which is in the plaza at the corner of Stack and Palm Bay Rd., behind the old Atlanta Bread Co.. Their phone number is 321-723-4742. We'll be meeting in a private room to the left of the entrance. RSVP if you can to [catspah@cfl.rr.com](mailto:catspah@cfl.rr.com)

## Future Meetings

In June we will play the Trivial Pursuit of Church State Separation. **Sunday June 3, at Melbourne Public Library. 1:30 p.m.**

On **July 1**, we will celebrate our nation's birth with our **First Amendment Celebration** at the library at 1:30 p.m. We will invite other Freethought groups and will have volunteers read the Constitution of the United States in full.

## May Agenda

Past events:

### Garage Sale

We had a successful garage sale and earned almost \$200 for SCFA. Thanks to Toni and Mike, Cameo and Doug, and Dianna for all their hard work and donations.

Upcoming events:

**Adopt-a-Road** clean up, **Sunday, May 13 at 9:00 a.m. Note the time change for the summer!**

Meet at the former Atlanta Bread Co. parking lot at Palm Bay Rd. and Stack Blvd.

Check out our website frequently for updates and additions.

## Events

### May 3

#### National Day of Reason Dinner

Back Bay Seafood.

4910 Stack Blvd. in Melbourne.

RSVP to [catspah@cfl.rr.com](mailto:catspah@cfl.rr.com).

<http://www.nationaldayofreason.org/>

### September 28-30

Atheist Alliance Intl. Convention

Washington, D.C.

### October 12-14

Freedom From Religion Foundation Convention

Madison, Wisconsin

<http://ffrf.org/events/>

### October 20

Freethought Day at Disney

Magic Kingdom, Orlando Florida

<http://www.spacecoastfreethought.org/disney/>

## Purchase SCFA merchandise

<http://www.spacecoastfreethought.org/store.html> and

<http://www.cafepress.com/scfreethought>

We have mugs, t-shirts, license plate covers, a fabulous Jefferson throw pillow, and our featured item:

The 'Hug me, I'm an atheist' bear!



## Church-State Update

### National

#### **House Members Call for Non-Stop Prayer (3/30)**

A group of about 30 member of the U.S. House of Representatives called for Americans to engage in non-stop prayer (by signing up for a particular time at [prayercaucus.org](http://prayercaucus.org)).

#### **Study shows that abstinence-only programs are a waste of money (4/20)**

'In the past decade, the federal government has spent more than \$1 billion on programs that promote abstinence as the only healthy choice to make about sex before marriage. Last week, the government's own long-term evaluation of the initiatives, required by Congress in 1997, showed that these programs seem to accomplish essentially nothing.' – Slate.com

#### **Use of Wiccan Symbol on Veterans' Headstones Is Approved (4/23)**

'To settle a lawsuit, the Department of Veterans Affairs has agreed to add the Wiccan pentacle to a list of approved religious symbols that it will engrave on veterans' headstones. ... Until now, the Veterans Affairs department had approved 38 symbols to indicate the faith of deceased service members on memorials. It normally takes a few months for a petition by a faith group to win the department's approval, but the effort on behalf of the Wiccan symbol took about 10 years and a lawsuit, said Richard B. Katskee, assistant legal director for Americans United. The group attributed the delay to religious discrimination. Many Americans do not consider Wicca a religion, or hold the mistaken belief that Wiccans are devil worshipers.' – New York Times

#### **Judge says post offices can't promote religion (4/24)**

A federal judge has ruled that religion has no place in post offices across the country that are run by churches and other private contractors, citing the separation of church and state in the Constitution. U.S. District Judge Dominic J. Squatrito, in a case involving a church-run post office in Manchester, ordered the U.S. Postal Service to notify the nearly 5,200 facilities run by contractors that they cannot promote religion through pamphlets, displays or any other materials. He also told the agency to monitor those offices, which are distinguishable from government-run facilities and

employ workers who are not Postal Service employees, to make sure they comply with his ruling... Squatrito sided with Jewish veteran Bertram Cooper, who in 2003 sued the Postal Service and the Full Gospel Interdenominational Church, which operates the Sincerely Yours Inc. post office on Main Street in downtown Manchester [Connecticut]. ' – Newsday

### Florida

#### **ACLU monitoring school bible handouts in Collier County (4/17)**

'A Collier County man who hands out bibles [in school] to Collier County high school students is under fire by the American Civil Liberties Union.' - NBC

---

### Space Coast Freethought Association

(SCFA) is a nonprofit community of reason-based individuals organized to facilitate social interaction, promote the non-theistic, rationalist viewpoint as a valid contribution to public discourse, reinforce the First Amendment guarantee of separation between government and religion through education and activism, and work in coalition with like-minded organizations where joint action is needed to achieve these goals.

---

Join our discussion list online at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SpaceCoastFreethought/>

Visit us on the web at <http://www.spacecoastfreethought.org/>

---

Join SCFA! Annual membership is \$15 for one, \$25 for a family, and \$10 for seniors and students.

Join using our web form at

<http://www.spacecoastfreethought.org/donate.html>

---

Freethinkers are those who are willing to use their minds without prejudice and without fearing to understand things that clash with their own customs, privileges, or beliefs. This state of mind is not common, but it is essential for right thinking; where it is absent, discussion is apt to become worse than useless.

---