

FREELY SPEAKING

Space Coast Freethought Association

June 2008

Upcoming Events

Sunday, June 1

SCFA Monthly Meeting

1:30 at Melbourne Public Library on Fee Ave. We will discuss Logical Fallacies.

Sunday, June 8

SCFA Adopt-A-Road

Cancelled until fall.

Friday, June 20

Summer Solstice

7:59p.m.

Sunday, July 6

SCFA Monthly Meeting

1:30 at Melbourne Public Library on Fee Ave. We will discuss the origin of religious freedom.

Sunday, August 3

SCFA Monthly Meeting

1:30 at Melbourne Public Library on Fee Ave. We will be showing a movie (TBD.)

Sunday, September 7

SCFA Monthly Meeting

1:30 at Melbourne Public Library on Fee Ave. We will discuss many of the new freethought books on the market.

Sunday, October 5

SCFA Monthly Meeting

1:30 at Cocoa Public Library.

October 10 - 12

FFRF Convention

Chicago

Saturday, October 18

Freethought Day at Disney

This year we are going to Epcot!

Want to keep informed of SCFA events? Join groups.yahoo.com/group/scfa_announce/

SCFA News

SCFA Becomes American Atheist Associate Member

We still remain an independent organization, but as an associate member we will be listed on their website, informed of their events, and our members will receive discounts on new American Atheist memberships.

City Council and County Commission Invocations

It has come to SCFA's attention that the Palm Bay City Council has been starting their meetings with a religious (usually Christian) prayer. SCFA has contacted American's United about this issue, and we are currently monitoring the city council to gather more information on their practices.

Sign the virtual wall

We now have ~250 signatures on our wall. Fellow church/state supporters from across the country and Canada have signed our wall. See what they have to say at: spacecoastfreethought.org/brick.html.

This Month in Freethought History

Quote: Elbert Hubbard, born June 19, 1874



"Organized religion, being founded on superstition, is, perforce, not scientific. And all that which is not scientific -- that is, truthful -- must be bolstered up by force, fear and falsehood. Thus we always find slavery and organized religion going hand in hand."

"Heaven: The Coney Island of the Christian imagination."



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Church-State Update

*A Report on Church-State Legal Issues
Affecting Brevard County Citizens*

National

Pastors Urged to Preach Politics to Test IRS Rules

"[The] Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) is urging clergy to defy the tax-law ban on candidate endorsements by tax-exempt groups. Ministers are being pushed to use their pulpits on Sept. 28 to preach about candidates and spark a showdown. The ADF, a theocracy-minded legal operation founded by right-wing religious broadcasters, hopes the Internal Revenue Service will launch investigations of these churches, thus opening the door to a federal test case of the constitutionality of the law." - *au.org*

Florida

Religion-based Constitutional Amendments Officially on November Ballot

#2 "Florida Marriage Protection Amendment": Limits marriage to one man and one woman

#7 "Religious Freedom": Would repeal a constitutional ban on direct and indirect state financial aid to churches and religious organizations.

#9 "Requiring 65 percent of School Funding for Classroom Instruction; State's Duty for Children's Education": Reverses legal precedent prohibiting public funding of private schools



The first full moon in June is called the Honey Moon. Tradition holds that this is the best time to harvest honey. In some traditions, "newly wed couples were fed dishes and beverages that featured honey for the first month of their married life to encourage love and fertility. The surviving vestige of this tradition lives on in the name given to the holiday immediately after the ceremony: The Honeymoon." - *religioustolerance.org*



Quote: George Orwell, born June 25, 1903

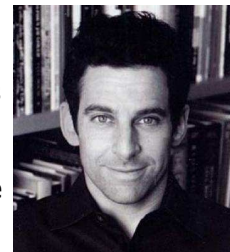
"One must choose between God and Man, and all 'radicals' and progressives,' from the mildest liberal to the most extreme anarchist, have in effect chosen Man."

Sam Harris is looking for research volunteers to help with his survey.

"We are preparing to run another fMRI study of belief and disbelief, and we need volunteers to help us refine our experimental stimuli.

This promises to be the first study of religious faith at the level of the brain."

www.samharris.org



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

Join our discussion list online at

groups.yahoo.com/group/SpaceCoastFreethought/

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

SCFA Board of Directors

Doug Cramer, president

Bob Long, vice-president

Toni Sweeney, treasurer

Cameo Johnson-Cramer, secretary

Steven Brown

Mike Sweeney

The board of directors meets monthly to discuss the future of SCFA. We plan meeting agendas, develop and implement advertising strategies, decide on social opportunities for our members, and more.

If you have any input for the SCFA board of directors, please contact us at

info@spacecoastfreethought.org or use the contact form at our website, *spacecoastfreethought.org*.

