

# FREELY SPEAKING

Space Coast Freethought Association

October 2008

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, October 5

SCFA Monthly Meeting  
1:30 at Cocoa Public Library.

### October 10 - 12

FFRF Convention  
Chicago, Illinois  
[ffrf.org/events/2008/](http://ffrf.org/events/2008/)

### Saturday, October 11

Progressive Fest  
Eau Gallie Civic Center, 1551 Highland Ave.,  
11am-4pm (SCFA will have a table there)  
[spacecoastprogressivealliance.org/](http://spacecoastprogressivealliance.org/)

### Saturday, October 18

Freethought Day at Disney  
This year we are going to Epcot! Wear a lime green shirt, or buy ours.  
[freethoughtdayatdisney.org](http://freethoughtdayatdisney.org)



### Sunday, November 2

SCFA Monthly Meeting  
Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave. Melbourne. We will be discussing the upcoming elections.

### Tuesday, November 4

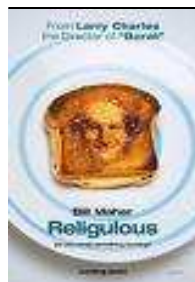
General Elections  
Get out and vote!

### Sunday, December 7

SCFA Monthly Meeting  
Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave. Melbourne. We will be having a holiday celebration.

## Want to keep informed of SCFA events?

Join [atheists.meetup.com/569/](http://atheists.meetup.com/569/)



See Bill Maher's new movie  
**Religulous.**

Unfortunately the nearest theater is in Orlando.  
[google.com/movies?hl=en&near=orlando&sort=1&mid=4793d4a381fccc](http://google.com/movies?hl=en&near=orlando&sort=1&mid=4793d4a381fccc)

## SCFA News

### Voter's Guide Online

The SCFA voter's guide is currently being updated with information on the November elections. Check it out often for the most current updates on the church/state separation positions of the candidates in both local and national elections.  
[spacecoastfreethought.org/voterguide.html](http://spacecoastfreethought.org/voterguide.html)

### Sign the virtual wall

We now have ~300 signatures on our wall, including the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. See what they have to say at:  
[spacecoastfreethought.org/brick.html](http://spacecoastfreethought.org/brick.html).

**Join SCFA!** Annual membership is \$15 for one, \$25 for a family, and \$10 for seniors and students. Join using our web form at  
[spacecoastfreethought.org/donate.html](http://spacecoastfreethought.org/donate.html)

## This Month in Freethought History

**Halloween, Oct. 31** -- "Now the religious right is



joining the war against children, saying Halloween is a satanic plot. A Costa Mesa Christian group, Citizens for Excellence in Education, says the witch's broomstick is a phallic symbol of pagan worship.

Yet another reason not to clean the house. The group says a 'spiritual battle' is raging on this night as covens of witches and other pagan religions call forth their demon spirits.' Even kids know demons are make-believe. It's unreal adults you have to worry about." -- Rob Morse, SF Chronicle, 1993



Win a 7-day, 6-night trip for two to the Galapagos Islands and Ecuador.  
Raffle tickets only \$50 each.  
[www.freethoughtflorida.com/cruise.html](http://www.freethoughtflorida.com/cruise.html)



## Church-State Update

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

### National

#### Pastors nationwide defy ban on church politicking (9/28)

"All told, 33 pastors in 22 states were to make pointed recommendations about political candidates ..., an effort orchestrated by the Arizona-based Alliance Defense Fund. The conservative legal group plans to send copies of the pastors' sermons to the IRS with hope of setting off a legal fight and abolishing restrictions on church involvement in politics. Critics call it unnecessary, divisive and unlikely to succeed. Congress amended the tax code in 1954 to state that certain nonprofit groups, including secular charities and places of worship, can lose their tax-exempt status for intervening in a campaign involving candidates." – *firstamendmentcenter.org*

#### Military hit with 2nd suit over religious freedom (9/25)

'An atheist soldier has sued Defense Secretary Robert Gates, alleging he was forced to participate in public prayers and that the military systematically violates the religious freedoms of its personnel. Spc. Dustin Chalker, who has



L to R: SGT Aguilar, SPC Carr, SPC Hall, SPC Hernandez, SPC Dustin

served in Korea and Iraq, is the second soldier at the northeast Kansas post to file such a lawsuit. The New Mexico-based Military Religious Freedom Foundation joined Chalker as a plaintiff in his lawsuit, filed Sept. 25 in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kan. Mikey Weinstein, president of the foundation and a U.S. Air Force Academy graduate, called the alleged violations of military personnel's religious freedom "a rape of the Constitution. It's at least as terrible as what we're fighting overseas." '

– *firstamendmentcenter.org*



#### **Quote: John Adams, October 30, 1735**

"The United States of America have exhibited, perhaps, the first example of governments erected on the simple principles of nature; and if men are now sufficiently enlightened to disabuse themselves of artifice, imposture, hypocrisy, and superstition, they will consider this event as an era in their history... It will never be pretended that any persons employed in that service had interviews with the gods, or were in any degree under the influence of Heaven, more than those at work upon ships or houses, or laboring in merchandise or agriculture; it will forever be acknowledged that these governments were contrived merely by the use of reason and the senses. "

### Florida

#### ACLU Files Lawsuit To Protect Religious Freedom Of Florida High School Students (9/18)

'Santa Rosa County school officials are using their governmental positions to promote their personal religious beliefs in public schools, according to a lawsuit filed today on behalf of two Pace High School students by the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida and the national ACLU. The lawsuit reveals a repeated pattern by school officials – including Santa Rosa County School Board members and Pace High School Principal H. Frank Lay – of promoting and endorsing prayers at graduation ceremonies and other school events, of sponsoring religious ceremonies and holding official school events at churches. "Parents, not the public schools, should be responsible for deciding whether their children receive religious education," said Benjamin Stevenson, staff attorney with the ACLU of Florida's Northwest Region office. "Religious freedom is eroded when the government endorses any particular religious viewpoint." ' – *aclu.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 achieve these goals.

#### **SCFA Board of Directors**

Doug Cramer, president  
Bob Long, vice-president  
Cameo Johnson-Cramer, secretary  
Steven Brown  
Mike Sweeney