

FREELY SPEAKING

Space Coast Freethought Association

November 2009

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 1

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave.
large conference room right of reference desk

Time: 1:30-3:30



November 6 - 8

Freedom From Religion Ntnl. Conv.

Location: Seattle, WA

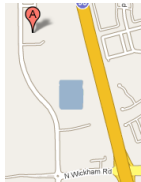
Speakers: Ron Reagan, Ursula K. LeGuin, Barry Kosmin, & sociologist Phil Zuckerman. ffrf.org

Sunday, November 8

Adopt-a-Road

Location: Stack Blvd. and Palm Bay Rd., west parking lot near Amscot shopping center

Time: 9:00a.m.



Sunday, November 15

Meetup Eat-Up

Location: Chili's, Viera (I95-Viera exit, W on Wickham, N on Lake Andrew)

Time: 1:30pm

Sunday, December 6

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave.
large conference room right of reference desk

Time: 1:30-3:30

Sunday, December 13

Adopt-a-Road

Location: Stack Blvd. and Palm Bay Rd., west parking lot near Amscot shopping center

Time: 9:00a.m.



Monday, December 21, 12:47p.m. EST

Winter Solstice

Want to keep informed of SCFA events & discussions? Join atheists.meetup.com/569/

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

Bill Hunter

Mike Sweeney

SCFA Adopts Science Class



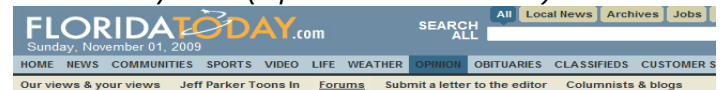
We have recently adopted the 5th grade Science Resource Room at Sabal Elementary on Wickham Rd. This school is in a low income area and scores lower than all other schools in the region in science. We would like to raise \$2,000 for their science improvements. Donations can be made at meetings or online at spacecoastfreethought.org/donate. What better way is there to encourage critical thinking than by teaching science?

So far we have raised \$246!

If you have a science background and would like to helping design and/or run experiments during special events at the school, please let us know.

Want to talk about freethought issues?

floridatoday.com (Opinions -> Forums)



atheistnexus.org



Church-State Update

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

National

LGBT people added to federal hate crimes list (10/28)

'The new law adds acts of violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people to the list of federal hate crimes. [...] Congress passed the hate crimes protections as an unlikely amendment to this year's Defense Authorization Act. Obama, speaking at an emotional evening reception with supporters of the legislation, said that more than 12,000 hate crimes had been reported the past decade based on sexual orientation. ' – McClatchy

On PBS in November



Part 1—Tuesday, Nov. 3, 8:00p.m.

Part 2—Tuesday, Nov 10, 8:00p.m.

Part 3—Tuesday, Nov. 17, 8:00p.m.

Brevard

School Board votes to allow outside groups access to students (10/27)

The Brevard County School Board rescinded its policy to not allow outside groups to address students in classrooms. The group requirements were written specifically to allow the Boy Scouts to recruit (they must be an "established" "governmental or not-for-profit community based youth group, organized to serve young people under age 21 that promotes and provides opportunities for students to learn and practice good character qualities, citizenship, community service, patriotism, and moral values"). The vote was 4-1 in favor, with Barbara Murray the lone dissenter.

Also of note: Two years ago, the policy of not allowing outside groups to recruit in school or distribute fliers was put into place. Five months later, the fliers policy was changed to allow sending fliers to homes one a month and to leave fliers in the office to be picked up. – Florida Today

Other Freethought Groups Nearby

Orlando Atheists and Freethinkers

Orlando, FL

meetup.com/GotReason

Campus Freethought Alliance

University of Central Florida

[facebook.com/group.php?gid=2219642055](https://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2219642055)

Stuart Atheist Meetup Group

Stuart, FL

atheists.meetup.com/600

First Coast Freethought Society

Jacksonville, FL

firstcoastfreethoughtsociety.org

Florida Atheists & Secular Humanists—FLASH

West Palm Beach, FL

freethoughtflorida.com

Humanists of Florida Association

throughout Florida (Barefoot Bay, Lakeland, etc.)

floridahumanist.org

Freethought in History—Nov. 4, 1881

Canterbury Freethought Association held an opening ceremony for their new hall. The following is from a write-up about the event from their local newspaper, the Star, in Christchurch, New Zealand.

CANTERBURY FREETHOUGHT ASSOCIATION.

The members of the Canterbury Freethought Association celebrated the opening of their new hall last evening. The hall is

"The Association now numbered 80 members.... He (the president of the club) had no doubt they would yet achieve a great success. They did not wish to interfere with others. They only asked for that liberality they were willing to extend to those who differed from them. They courted enquiry being satisfied that their doctrines were founded on a firm basis. He was sure that the more education and intelligence spread, the more their views would obtain.... It seemed to him that while those who called themselves orthodox imagined they had found certain knowledge, the freethinkers were still seeking the truth." — paperspast.natlib.govt.nz