

FREELY SPEAKING

Space Coast Freethought Association

December 2009

Upcoming Events

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

Sunday, January 3

SCFA Monthly Meeting

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

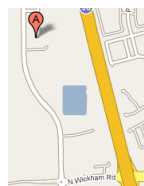
Time: 1:30-3:30

Sunday, January 10

Adopt-a-Road

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

Time: 9:00a.m.



Sunday, January 17

Meetup Eat-Up

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

Time: 1:30

Sunday, February 7

SCFA Monthly Meeting

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

Time: 1:30-3:30

Sunday, February 14

Adopt-a-Road

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

Time: 9:00a.m.

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



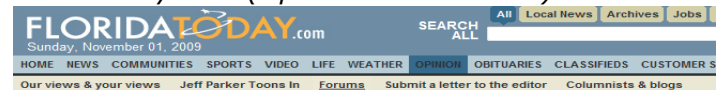
We have recently adopted the 5th grade Science Resource Room at Sabal Elementary on Wickham Rd. This school is in a low income area and scores lower than all other schools in the region in science. We would like to raise \$2,000 for their science improvements. Donations can be made at meetings or online 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



A COMMUNITY OF NONTHEISTS



Church-State Update

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

National

[Supreme Court Refuses to Hear Appeal from Student Who Was Punished for Preaching During Graduation Speech \(11/30\)](#)

'The Supreme Court won't revive a student's lawsuit against a school that punished her for talking about her religion during her high school graduation speech. The high court today refused to hear an appeal from Erica Corder. She was punished for her 2006 speech at the Lewis-Palmer High School commencement in Monument, Colo. School officials screened Corder's speech in advance but she changed her text, urging the audience to consider the Christian faith. The principal made her to write a letter acknowledging the remarks were her personal views before she was given her diploma. Corder sued, but federal courts threw out her lawsuit. Judges say the school didn't violate her rights because her remarks were school-sponsored, rather than private speech.' – *firstamendmentcenter.org*

[13 New Embryonic Stem Cell Lines Approved for Research \(12/2\)](#)

'Scientists received a green light Wednesday to apply for use of 13 human embryonic stem-cell lines from an approved list developed by the National Institutes of Health, the government's prime medical research agency. [...] President Obama in the spring lifted eight years of restrictions on such cells that had limited public tax money from being used on 21 previously approved lines. It was expected that the new administration would change the policies but it took time to review the batches now available.' – *washingtontimes.com*

Extra

[U. S. District Court Rules Against South Carolina's "I Believe" License Plate \(11/10\)](#)

'A federal district court ruled [...] that a special Christian license plate mandated by the South Carolina legislature violates the constitutional separation of church and state.' (Note: the plate is nearly identical to the one Florida tried to create last year) – *au.org*

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

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



This PBS series brings together leading scientists, scholars and artists to debate latest discoveries and their impact on the human condition. Topics include:

- Can We Believe in Both Science and Religion?
- Who Gets to Validate Alternative Medicine?
- Is Consciousness Definable?
- Is the Universe Full of Life?
- Can Religion Withstand Technology?

Episodes are available free online by either video or pdf transcripts.

www.pbs.org/kcet/closertotruth/