

Space Coast Freethought Association Bulletin for January 2010

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 3

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave., large conference room by entrance
Time: 1:30-3:30p.m.

Sunday, February 7

SCFA Monthly Meeting

Location: Melbourne Public Library, 540 E. Fee Ave. large conference room by entrance
Time: 1:30-3:30

Sunday, January 10

Adopt-a-Road

Location: Stack Blvd. and Palm Bay Rd., west parking lot near Amscot
Time: 9:00a.m.

Sunday, February 14

Adopt-a-Road

Location: Stack Blvd. and Palm Bay Rd., west parking lot near Amscot
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: 1:30p.m.

Sunday, March 21

Meetup Eat-Up

Location: Chili's, Viera (I95-Viera exit, W on Wickham, N on Lake Andrew)
Time: 1:30p.m.

Church-State Report - National

Supreme Court to Hear Case Involving Discriminatory Organization that Wants Official School Recognition (12/7)

'The U.S. Supreme Court today announced it will hear a dispute from California involving an evangelical Christian club at a public law school that wants recognition and funding as an official campus organization, even though it discriminates on religious grounds. Americans United for Separation of Church and State urged the high court to use the case as a vehicle to make it clear that groups seeking public funding and official recognition on public college campuses must be open to all. [...] The dispute involves a branch of the Christian Legal Society at Hastings College of Law at the University of California in San Francisco. The group sought funding and official status from the school, even though it effectively bars gays and non-Christians from membership by requiring all officers and voting members to sign an evangelical Christian statement of faith. Hastings College of Law bans discrimination against gays and lesbians, as well as religious discrimination, and officials there said they did not want to support a club that was not open to all. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Hastings.' – *au.org*

Air Force Academy, critic say religious climate improving (12/18)

'The Air Force Academy says religious tolerance has improved dramatically since allegations five years ago that evangelical Christians harassed cadets who didn't share their faith. Even the school's most vocal critic agrees. "This is the first time we feel positive about things there," said Mikey Weinstein, founder of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, which battled the academy in court over claims that evangelicals at the school were imposing their views on others. The academy superintendent, Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael Gould, says the improvements are the result of a top-down campaign to foster respect and a commitment to

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accommodate all cadets, even nonbelievers and an "Earth-centered" religious group that needed a place for a stone circle so it could worship outdoors.' - *firstamendmentcenter.org*