

SECULAR COLORADO

Hub | HOC | BA | FFRF | SA | SVC | AU | SAC

Another Group Joins The Newsletter!

The Secular Adventure Crew is joining our masthead! To be honest, they have the best events offered by the Secular community around Denver: Hikes, museum visits, campouts, a ski trip coming in March. Now we can all read about their exploits.

The group started as the Secular Singles, until it was realized that hey, everybody likes to do that kind of stuff, not just singles. The hope is that more and more people will join in, from all Secular-minded groups. It's not all outdoors, and it's not all truly adventurous, so pretty much anybody can join in. Well, there might be the occasional activity where that is not true. Did we mention skiing in March?

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Winter Solstice

Yes friends, we are making this season ours! Commercialism has owned it for a century or so, and the Christians owned it for hundreds of years before that, but the rest of humanity owned it for thousands of years originally, and it's time we took it back!

Solstice celebrations take place in some form all over Denver, actually. Ours will be held at the Secular Hub on December 19th, starting at 6:00 PM with a potluck dinner, and stretching on through an evening that will include both music and poetry.



For the potluck, please bring a dish according to your last name:

- A-D Main Dish
- E-J Salad
- K-S Side Dish
- T-Z Dessert

Several groups are collaborating on this party, including the Freedom From Religion Foundation and the Humanists of Colorado. One of the Solstice traditions of the HOC will be observed, a book exchange: bring one to offer, and take a different one home. Maybe you do not read books anymore, but you probably still have some at home, right?

HUMANISTS OF COLORADO

Humanism and Its Aspirations

Humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernaturalism, affirms our ability and responsibility to lead ethical lives of personal fulfillment that aspire to the greater good of humanity.

The lifestance of Humanism—guided by reason, inspired by compassion, and informed by experience—encourages us to live life well and fully. It evolved through the ages and continues to develop through the efforts of thoughtful people who recognize that values and ideals, however carefully wrought, are subject to change as our knowledge and understandings advance.

This document is part of an ongoing effort to manifest in clear and positive terms the conceptual boundaries of Humanism, not what we must believe but a consensus of what we do believe. It is in this sense that we affirm the following:

Knowledge of the world is derived by observation, experimentation, and rational analysis. Humanists find that science is the best method for determining this knowledge as well as for solving problems and developing beneficial technologies. We also recognize the value of new departures in thought, the arts, and inner experience—each subject to analysis by critical intelligence.

Humans are an integral part of nature, the result of unguided evolutionary change. Humanists recognize nature as self-existing. We accept our life as all and enough, distinguishing things as they are from things as we might wish or imagine them to be. We welcome the challenges of the future, and are drawn to and undaunted by the yet to be known.

Ethical values are derived from human need and interest as tested by experience. Humanists ground values in human welfare shaped by human circumstances, interests, and concerns and extended to the global ecosystem and beyond. We are committed to treating each person as having inherent worth and dignity, and to making informed choices in a context of freedom consonant with responsibility.

Life's fulfillment emerges from individual participation in the service of humane ideals. We aim for our fullest possible development and animate our lives with a deep sense of purpose, finding wonder and awe in the joys and beauties of human existence, its challenges and tragedies, and even in the inevitability and finality of death. Humanists rely on the rich heritage of human culture and the lifestance of Humanism to provide comfort in times of want and encouragement in times of plenty.

Humans are social by nature and find meaning in relationships. Humanists long for and strive toward a world of mutual care and concern, free of cruelty and its consequences, where differences are resolved cooperatively without resorting to violence. The joining of individuality with interdependence enriches our lives, encourages us to enrich the lives of others, and inspires hope of attaining peace, justice, and opportunity for all.

Working to benefit society maximizes individual happiness. Progressive cultures have worked to free humanity from the brutalities of mere survival and to reduce suffering, improve society, and develop global community. We seek to minimize the inequities of circumstance and ability, and we support a just distribution of nature's resources and the fruits of human effort so that as many as possible can enjoy a good life.

Humanists are concerned for the well being of all, are committed to diversity, and respect those of differing yet humane views. We work to uphold the equal enjoyment of human rights and civil liberties in an open, secular society and maintain it is a civic duty to participate in the democratic process and a planetary duty to protect nature's integrity, diversity, and beauty in a secure, sustainable manner.

Thus engaged in the flow of life, we aspire to this vision with the informed conviction that humanity has the ability to progress toward its highest ideals. The responsibility for our lives and the kind of world in which we live is ours and ours alone.

SECULAR ADVENTURE CREW

SAC Photos



SAC Origins

The Secular Adventure Crew was born out of the Denver Secular Singles meetup group. Heili Lehr had just joined Secular Singles a year ago and hadn't even been to one meetup yet when the leader stepped down and a 30 day countdown started for someone to take over the group or it would be dissolved. So, in spite of a sworn promise that she would stop volunteering for so many things, she decided to try her hand at running the meetup.

After getting to know more people at the Secular Hub and hearing that other people would love to join in on the fun but were in relationships or thought it was more of a dating group, it was decided that the name should be changed to be more inclusive. This group is for all secular people who love to get out and socialize and do some great activities you probably wouldn't be doing without a fun group to go with.

Past meetups have included comedy clubs, whitewater rafting, glow golf and Casa Bonita, the Renaissance Festival, a road trip to the Royal Gorge, wine tasting, brewery tours and a camping trip to Wellington Lake.

Upcoming meetups this winter are scheduled for the Chatfield Trail of Lights, a road trip to Breckenridge for the snow sculpture competition, indoor Go-Karting and a winter weekend up in Silverthorne to go snow tubing, have a fondue dinner via gondola at the top of Keystone Mountain, and snowmobiling.

We try to have a wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities. There is no fee for being a member of the group and although some events require advance ticket purchases and/or reservations, many others are free or low cost. If you have any ideas for something fun for the Crew to do, contact Heili at heililehr2@yahoo.com or by phone or text at 303-547-2766. We hope to have you join us for an adventure soon!

Note: SAC activities can be found listed in the combined secular calendar, available on the websites of several groups (such as the Secular Hub, at <http://www.secularhub.org>), and in the Events section of this newsletter.

BOULDER ATHEISTS

News

The Boulder Atheists have launched a new FaceBook account which can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/117123405290747/>. This is an "open group", which means that a person must "join" and become a member before they can post articles or leave comments. Non-members can "like" or "share" any post they want to.

Our monthly membership meeting was held at the Main Boulder Public Library on Sunday November 22nd. We viewed the "Slaves to Superstition" the first of a two part documentary of by Richard Dawkins entitled "The Enemies of Reason", which was originally broadcast on British Television in 2007. A discussion was held afterward which proved to be both thought provoking and stimulating. In lieu of a membership meeting for the month of December, we have scheduled our Winter Solstice Party on December 20th (see details below). Our next monthly membership meeting will be held on January 24th on the fourth Sunday of the month as usual.

Tuesday December 22nd: Alter at the Brew Pub at the Avery Brewing Company, 4910 Nautilus Ct in Boulder, starting at 6:00 p.m. The topic of conversation will be: "Do Atheists Celebrate Christmas?"

On October 4th, the Boulder Atheists hosted a presentation by Rebecca Harrington from Population Connection (formerly Zero Population Growth) at Alfalfa's community meeting room in Boulder. Among the many topics that Rebecca touched upon was the latest United Nations projections for future world population, which predicts that world human population is expected to increase from 7.3 billion in 2015 to over 11.2 billion by the year 2100. The continent with the greatest increase will be Africa, where the population is predicted to increase from 1.2 billion in 2015 to 4.4 billion by 2100, an increase of almost 400%. This human expansion into the wilderness areas of Africa has proven to be devastating to the Lion population, whose population has declined by 21% in the past 21 years. Another problem concerns places like Burundi where most people survive on subsistence farming. Diminishing lands prohibit the population from growing enough food to support themselves. The Catholic Church owns and controls an unknown portion of this land. One of the greatest advancements that could alleviate this growing problem would be the empowerment of women so that they can control the number of children they chose to bring into this world. More information can be found on their web site at www.popconnectaction.org



Sunday December 20th: Our Winter Solstice Party will be held at BJ's in Boulder from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Members and non members alike are welcome to attend. Admission, which includes an all-you-can-eat buffet at a cost of \$20.00 per person. Dues-paying members will receive a \$5.00 discount which reduces the cost to \$15.00 per person. Anyone who would like to attend should RSVP on MeetUp.com so we can have an accurate head count.

FREEDOM FROM RELIGION

Metro Denver Chapter

There has been some local activity with regards to violations of state and church separation.

The Elbert County Clerk's office located in Kiowa, Colorado has a religious poster hanging for all to see upon entry. The clerk's office opposes same sex marriage and makes it known with this poster.

See the following link for more details on the violation and FFRF's response <https://ffrf.org/news/news-releases/item/24822-ffrf-complains-as-colorado-clerk-sheriff-inject-religion-into-their-jobs>.

As of today, 12/6/15, the religious poster remains up in the Elbert County and new developments are happening daily. The Elbert County sheriff's Facebook page has religious overtones and the county commissioners are in agreement with the religious promotions that have been occurring in that county. The national office of FFRF has a staff attorney addressing the issues with letters and emails...stay tuned for more updates in the future.

SECULAR HUB

Hub Helpers Wanted

The Hub is an all-volunteer organization, going strong after three years, but perpetually short-handed. If you would like to get more involved, but are not sure whether your skills would be useful, check out the chart below, put together by our Treasurer, Dianne.

You will see that we need a Secretary - mostly taking notes at meetings - and many, many other types of help. We just bet you would be good at something in this list, and we would love for you to say something to a volunteer at the next Hub event you attend.

OFFICERS			
Chair	Filled		
Vice Chair	Filled		
Secretary			
Treasurer	Filled		
COMMITTEE POSITIONS	Coordinator	Lieutenant	Members
AGPVN			
Advertising			
Graphics			
Photography			
Video			
Newsletter	Filled		
Audit (Biennial; even years)			
Bylaws	Filled		
Community Service/Outreach	Filled		
Events			
Planning			
Scheduling/Calendar updates	Filled		
Volunteer Coordination			
Fundraising			
Annual Dinner			
Silent Auction			
Rechargeable grocery cards			
Membership			6
Newbie Night			
Member Database Manager	Filled		
Nominating			
Public Policy			
Web Presence			
Web Administration			
Web Content			
Office Staff			
Concessions	Filled		
HUB Maintenance			
Office Administration			

SECULAR COLORADO

Events

Details in [Online Calendar](#)

Thursday, December 17

12:30 PM (BA) Lunch at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris, Boulder

4:00 PM (BA) Afternoon Coffee at Vic's Coffee, 30th Street, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Movie Night: "Return of the Jedi" at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

Saturday, December 19

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Hub, DA) Planned Parenthood Rally/Vigil, at the Planned Parenthood offices in Stapleton, 7155 E 38th Ave., Denver

9:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

6:00 PM (Hub, FFRE, HOC) Winter Solstice Celebration at the Hub.

Starts at 6:00 PM with a potluck dinner, and stretches on through an evening that will include both music and poetry.

For the potluck, please bring a dish according to your last name:

- A-D Main Dish
- E-J Salad
- K-S Side Dish
- T-Z Dessert

More Events

Details in [Online Calendar](#)

Sunday, December 20

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

12:00 PM (SA) Monthly Sunday Assembly Service, at Swallow Hill Music, 71 East Yale Ave., Denver

4:00 PM (BA) Winter Solstice Party at BJ's Restaurant, Boulder

Monday, December 21

6:30 PM Freethinkers in AA, at the Hub

Tuesday, December 22

10:30 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

6:00 PM (BA) Altar of the Brewpub, at Avery Brewing, Boulder

Thursday, December 24

12:30 PM (BA) Lunch at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris, Boulder

4:00 PM (BA) Afternoon Coffee at Vic's Coffee, 30th Street, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Movie Night: "Bad Santa" at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

Friday, December 25

7:00 PM (BA) Dinner in Lafayette, at Ting's Place

SECULAR COLORADO

Yet More Events

[Details in Online Calendar](#)

Saturday, December 26

9:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

3:00 PM (Hub) African-American Humanist Temple

Sunday, December 27

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

2:15 PM (BA) Lunch at the Med on Walnut, Boulder

Monday, December 28

5:30 PM (Hub) Social Hour Southeast, at Darcy's Bistro and Pub, 4955 S. Ulster

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

Tuesday, December 29

10:00 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

Thursday, December 31

12:30 PM (BA) Lunch at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris, Boulder

4:00 PM (BA) Afternoon Coffee at Vic's Coffee, 30th Street, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Movie Night: TBD at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

Yet More Events

[Details in Online Calendar](#)

Saturday, January 2

9:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

4:00 PM (SAC) Ice Skating at Skyline Park and Mellow Mushroom

Sunday, January 3

10:00 AM (Hub) Coffee and Community

Monday, January 4

6:30 PM (Hub) Freethinkers in AA

Tuesday, January 5

10:00 AM (Hub) Work/Study at the Hub

6:00 PM (Hub) Open Hub Board Meeting

7:00 PM (BA) Monthly Evening Social at Murphy's, Boulder

Thursday, January 7

12:30 PM (BA) Lunch at 3 Margaritas, 28th and Iris, Boulder

4:00 PM (BA) Afternoon Coffee at Vic's Coffee, 30th Street, Boulder

6:30 PM (Hub) Movie Night: TBD at 7 on the big screen at the Hub

Friday, January 8

7:30 PM (Hub) Hub Jam!

SECULAR CONTACTS

This permanent page will contain contact information for all groups included in this newsletter. It is a work in progress as of this issue, however!

Secular Hub

Website: <http://www.secularhub.org>

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/SecularHub/>

Humanists of Colorado

Website: <http://humanistsofcolorado.org>

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/humanism-160>

Boulder Atheists

Website: <http://www.boulderatheists.org>

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/Boulder-Atheists/>

Freedom From Religion Foundation

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/FFRF-Denver/>

Sunday Assembly

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/Sunday-Assembly-Denver/>

Secular Volunteer Corps

(Organized by the Secular Hub)

Americans United

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/Americans-United-for-Separation-of-Church-State-Colorado/>

Secular Adventure Crew

Meetup: <http://www.meetup.com/SecularAdventureCrew/>