



Central Valley Alliance of Atheists and Skeptics

A Secular Voice in the Valley

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PRESS RELEASE

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7th Annual Heretic's Barbecue

The Central Valley Alliance of Atheists and Skeptics is hosting its seventh annual "Heretic's Barbecue". This year's guest speaker is James McGaha, a retired USAF pilot, astronomer and director of the Grasslands Observatory. The event will be held from 11:30 am to 5:00 pm Sunday, October xxth, 2014 at Letterman Park in Clovis.

Fresno, CA (cvaas.org) Freethinkers, atheists, skeptics, humanists and their friends and allies are invited to help us celebrate our freedom from religion at our 8th annual Heretic's Barbecue from 11:30 am to 5:00 pm Sunday, October 25th, at Letterman Park in Clovis.

This year's theme is, "Astronomy vs Astrology." As part of this theme we will challenge everyone in a contest to tell the difference between horoscopes created by real astrologers, and horoscopes that we just made up.

Our speaker this year is James McGaha. Mr. McGaha is the director of the Grasslands Observatory where his current work includes astrometry and photometry of asteroids and supernovae. James has discovered 15 asteroids and 63 comets and has over 2500 M.P.E.C. publications on Near Earth Asteroids. He is the optical discoverer of gamma-ray burst GRB 030329, is the winner of the 2002 Shoemaker NEO Grant, and has asteroid 10036 named "McGaha" in his honor. He has appeared widely in the media, having actively promoted science and debunked pseudoscience for over 35 years, focusing on belief in UFOs and astrology. He is the founder and chairman of the Tucson Skeptics and a Scientific Consultant to the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry.

Mr. McGaha will speak about astrology and its relationship with other pseudosciences.

This is a fun yearly event, and as always there will be good food, good people, and activities – including door prizes, arts and crafts, a silent auction, and a raffle of skeptical and secular themed books and other items.

Ticket prices are \$17.00 for adults, \$6.00 for children 12 or under. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online from meetup.com/Fresno-cvaas or goo.gl/N5pV9. Tickets may also be purchased at the event.

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