

Welcome to Dry River!

Sometimes referred to as:

Dry River Radical Resource Center

Operated by:

Dry River Collective

Our Story

A long time ago (2002), in a galaxy far, far away (Catalina Park) a small group of rebels sought to bring actualized rebellion to Tucson. Forming from the ashes of a collective called Heat Wave, comprised mostly of UA students, this small band of Anarchists formed to operate a small info-shop out of a youth space called Skrappy's. They quickly began organizing conferences, benefit events, workshops and protests under the name Dry River Collective, all in the name of fighting hierarchy, domination and exploitation.

May Day celebrations, demos against police brutality and marches in protest of electoral politics were the spice of life back then and the DRC suffered many a setback as well as the sweet taste of victory, the feeling that the human spirit can and does triumph over those that would have us toiling day after day.

Alas, after a couple years of good wholesome fun, the idea started bouncing around of operating a space where we could not only put our

ideas into practice but share them with the greater Tucson community. And in November of 2005 the DRC opened its space, Dry River, on West St. Mary's Road. DR moved to its current location in June of 2006.

Since the beginning, DRC has had numerous members come and go. Some are still around and continue to participate on various levels and some are long gone. But the fact that the Dry River space and the DRC continues to operate with only one original member and two more that have been around for more than five years shows that it is possible to create a sustainable, growing, radical collective.

Dry River is a place to overcome the passivity and isolation that capitalist society encourages. Usually one or two people's idea and enthusiasm is followed through to completion by many people's contributions. We are always eager to consider projects that promote a vision of a world without domination and price tags.

What You Need To Know

As previously stated, Dry River was formed by Anarchists. This does not mean you need to claim the circle-A as your god or get your membership card. On the contrary, we welcome people to participate within the guidelines we have set forth for ourselves regardless of what they do or do not choose to call themselves.



The Dry River space is an anarchist project that seeks to share knowledge, skills and resources because we believe these things should be free to all, and as direct action against the capitalist, commodified society in which we live. We operate in non-hierarchical fashion because we believe that no one has the right to speak for us as individuals, and in direct opposition to a ruling class that coerces us into ill-informed voting or simply makes decisions affecting our lives without our consent. As an anarchist project, DR does not support any commercial enterprise or



electoral campaign. We do, however, as individuals, have the freedom to participate in society as we see fit.

DR has supported numerous other projects and individuals from around the world, projects that we see as just. Mainly we try to support other ‘radicals’—people that we believe to be striking at the root of the problems our society faces.

As a collective, we are working to rid ourselves of sexism, racism, homophobia, class privilege, etc. And we are actively working to create space that is free from these things by confronting them, and keeping them out of DR as best we can.

Lastly, we are human, we make mistakes, we get tired, we can be hypocritical and we carry with us the poisonous traits this society has handed down. But what we have is a desire to see a just world, one based on gift, play and community, not commodity, work and isolation.



THE MEETING

Normally, we start by asking for two volunteers, Facilitator & Note-taker.

Facilitator- keeps the meeting on track, keeps ‘stack’ (i.e. who’s next to speak—yes, we wait our turn and don’t interrupt), keeps eye on ‘vibe’ of group, facilitates consensus process when needed; all of us are encouraged to speak up, though, if things are getting off track or someone is being missed on stack, etc.

Note-taker- records agenda items, pertinent announcements, general feeling on items, any decisions, and sends notes out to list within a couple days.



Meeting Process

1.a) Check-Ins b) Announcements c) Agenda Items- (a) let everyone know how you’re doing, good or bad. This will help folks understand if you’re anxious, morose, spacey, upset, etc. (b) general; may be of interest to those at meeting, regarding DR or not- e.g. parties, events, friends, etc. (c) things to be discussed or formally proposed during meeting- details are not necessary (ex. An agenda item would be “Movie”, not 5-minute explanation of the movie, who’s in it, where it’s filmed, when you want to show it, etc.).

2.a) Financial Update & b) Reading of Last Meeting Notes- items that were not discussed or finished are moved to current agenda.

3. Agenda- run down the list: sometimes items will be moved forward (when a guest has a proposal and staying through the meeting isn’t necessary, or an item seems lengthy and we want to ‘tackle’ it while fresh) or moved back (when an item isn’t time-sensitive and can be tabled to next meeting if necessary).

4. Recap- Decisions are re-read, individuals are reminded of what they agreed to do.

5. Check-outs- Folks are invited to give general feelings about the meeting, decisions, lingering concerns; open and honest critique is encouraged though this is NOT a time for debate.

Consensus Process

This is a quick overview of the consensus process we use and does not convey subtle nuances. While we encourage new folks to participate in discussion, we ask that you come to two meetings within one month and express a desire to be a collective member before being considered a consenting member of the Dry River Collective.

Consensus is a process that allows for the most directly democratic decision-making to occur. It not only opens the floor to all people to propose ideas and air concerns, but necessitates that all ideas and concerns be addressed. Keep in mind that decisions and concerns will relate to goals and mission of Dry River.

While the consensus process allows all collective members to participate equally, we are reminded that we all carry with us certain aspects of the larger society that we live in. We must be cautious not to let certain personalities dominate discussion or decision-making. Some people will tend to be silent. We must also encourage and invite those people to speak, making sure that all have had an opportunity share ideas and opinions. The Dry River Collective also recognizes the tendency in this society as a whole to ignore and disregard women and people of color. We make a conscious effort to challenge and eradicate this tendency!

1. Proposal- a clear and concise proposal is presented (i.e. “I want to show V for Vendetta on Sat., Nov 6 at 7:30pm,” not “I want to show a movie in a few weeks.”)



2. General Discussion- some details may be discussed, general or obvious concerns raised, idea expanded on, proposals may be changed or expanded on by the original presenter and restated.

3. Call For Concerns- Concerns are serious issues, problems, or enhancements of the proposal. The facilitator will call for concerns when general discussion seems to be wrapping up. Serious and specific concerns will be raised if they haven't been addressed in general discussion, and will then be resolved in a way that suits DR's goals and those involved with the proposal and concerns.

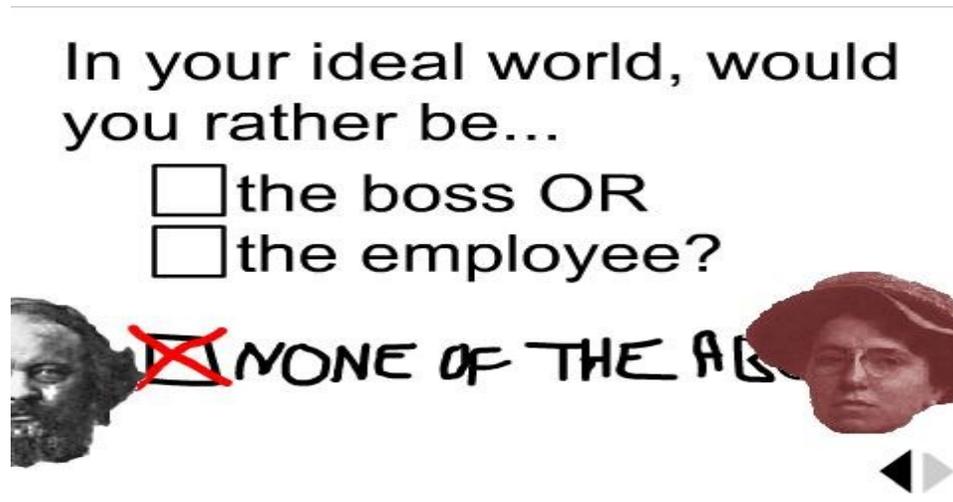
Examples: “Doesn't that movie glorify people being exploited?” “No, that's E for Exploitation, this is different.” Or “There's a skill-share from 6-7:30pm, can the movie start at 8pm?” “Yes, that works for me.” Or (an "enhancement") "Since the movie takes place on Nov. 5, wouldn't it be

better to show it on Fri, Nov. 5th instead of the 6th?" "Well, yes, that's a great idea!" NOT "That guy was way better in Matrix, let's show that instead."

Once concerns have been addressed, the proposal is technically consented on.

4. Stand-Asides- folks can stand-aside if they are indifferent or unsupportive of a proposal but don't feel strongly enough to raise a concern or block it, facilitator should check in with stand-asides by saying something like, "Do you have a concern?" "No, I just hate that movie but I'm not against it being shown."

5. Blocks- All collective members have the ability to block a proposal, but it shouldn't come to this. Saying you will block is basically saying "My concern has not been addressed, and if the collective consents I feel strongly enough to leave the collective."



Components

Library- The library contains books, zines, periodicals and other pamphlets. Books are available for check-out with a name and contact info (phone or email is sufficient). Zines and other literature are for the taking, although it's good to remind people that a donation is certainly welcomed. Ways to contribute include: straighten and organize shelves, dust, contact people about checked-out books, table at events, start a reading/discussion group, correspond with publishers or others about donating books.

Computers- Computers are available for public use. We also have a printer. We have a couple of techno-geeks that do what they can to keep things maintained but any help in updating and maintaining will certainly be appreciated.

Free Store- We have worked to keep the free store more manageable. Ideally, we would like to see the free store become a more valuable resource to the community in general. Nobody has been bottom-lining it, and as a result not much happens other than the random dropping off and taking of stuff. It would be great to have people dedicated to the free store to keep it organized as well as purged of crap that'll just collect dust otherwise. A little creativity and energy could turn it into a truly exciting thing.



Events, Shows, Movies- We are open to just about any type of event and are always excited to support new, unusual and interesting things happening. Our main concern is that all events are open and only require a donation for entry. And while we encourage events that will financially benefit groups that we support and benefit DR, we are not interested in supporting events that specifically benefit individuals (exceptions might be prisoners or folks with legal fees, hospital bills, etc.) Often, DR members will aid people with events or organize events themselves, but that doesn't mean if the collective supports or agrees to host an event that members are obligated to do anything unless specifically stated. DR has a No Alcohol policy. Exceptions have been made in certain cases but details must be specifically stated during the consensus process.

Staffing/Open Hours- We ask people who want to staff to come in to two different, pre-existing shifts so they can get a better idea of what kind of things can be done and so that different staffers can make suggestions. First, we want to be consistent with the days we are already open. We also prefer to have at least two staffers at all times, so you may be asked to staff one of the days we're already open. Hopefully, we can expand days/times down the road.



Classes & Other Weekly Groups- We have had many different free classes and groups meet at DR. We encourage people to share any knowledge or skills that they have with others. But please understand that if the collective supports a class or group it does not necessarily mean that collective members will participate or help with facilitating. It is up to the person bottom-lining the class or group to develop a base of attendees unless otherwise discussed. This also goes for promotion although we will make sure it is listed on our calendars. Past and present classes and groups include: Self-Defense, Anti-Civilization Discussion, Clean and Sober meeting, Spanish, Yoga, Sewing, Co-Counseling, Poetry, Zine Discussion, English as a 2nd Language, Assorted Skill-shares from Computer to Primitive Skills, Spontaneous Musical Consensus, among a few others.

So now that you know all of our deep, dark secrets(except the ones we forgot or purposefully left out) you are welcome to join us at any time, at a level of your choosing. We understand that it can be tough to get used to a whole new way of doing things. So take your time, get to know some of the folks, attend a few events and start thinking about what you can do to take back your life! We hope that Dry River is inspiring to you and you can see some possibilities of changing the world for the better, with us. If not, that's OK too. But we encourage you to look around, give fear and apathy a good, swift kick in the ass and go out and live the life you've always wanted.

DRY RIVER COLLECTIVE.



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Other Local Projects

Earth First! Journal

PO Box 3023, Tucson, AZ 85702-3023

www.earthfirstjournal.org

Read Between The Bars

P.O. Box 1589, Tucson, AZ 85702-1589

www.readbetweenthebars.org

Free Radio Chukshon

www.freeradiochukshon.org

90.9 FM in Tucson, Az

Arizona Indymedia

www.arizona.indymedia.org

So...

what is this place?

Other Resources

www.infoshop.org

www.anarchistnews.org

www.indymedia.org

www.bombsandshields.blogspot.com

www.earthfirst.org

firesneverextinguished.blogspot.com

www.crimethinc.com

www.occupiedlondon.org



A Guide To Getting Involved with the
Dry River Collective

