

## Physics Blogs

### Why read blogs?

Blogs (short for web logs) is a website, usually put together by someone with a particular passion or interest, to send out commentary and information to the world at large. It's like the best part of email newsletters. I asked teachers reading my own science education blog

(<http://www.sciencegeekgirl.wordpress.com>) why *they* read blogs and they replied:

- "I read blogs to get ideas for curriculum, (to find) demos and toys that can be used to good effect in the classroom. I read blogs to stay up to date with educational research. I read blogs for inspiration and support."
- "I'm going to publish my lessons on a blog for others to use for inspiration and hopefully start a dialog to improve them."
- "I LOVE having blogs to read. I feel connected to the Physics community in a way I never experienced before."
- "I find that most of the time topics are (written) in a manner that I can share with my students within the classroom setting. It adds a flavor to my lectures/demonstrations/discussions that I never had before."

Myself, I read them for both entertainment and news value. There are always gems in there that help me maintain my spark of interest in physics, in amongst the daily grind.

### Our favorites

#### **Cocktail party physics** and **Twisted Physics**

<http://twistedphysics.typepad.com/>

[http://blogs.discovery.com/twisted\\_physics/](http://blogs.discovery.com/twisted_physics/)

Written by an established science writer, the long and well-researched posts at Cocktail Party Physics are fascinating forays into different areas of physics, from wine to bell casting. Twisted Physics focuses more on astrophysics and astronomy.

**Built on Facts** (<http://scienceblogs.com/builtonfacts/>) is an excellent blog written by a physics graduate student with detailed posts about higher-level physics. His Sunday Function posts are an informative look at different mathematical functions in physics.

**Bad Astronomy** (<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/badastronomy/>) is written by astronomy and writer Phil Plait. The frequent-but-short posts at his blog are the staple of skeptics everywhere. His blog is half astronomy (latest from Cassini, NASA news, meteorites), and half skeptics (the LHC

hoo-ha, claims that the moon landing was a hoax, the anti-vaccination craze).

**Physics Buzz** (<http://physicsbuzz.physicscentral.com/>) from Physics Central highlights interesting articles from various physics blogs and important news in physics.

**Swans on Tea** (<http://blogs.scienceforums.net/swansont/>) writes frequent short posts, mostly highlighting interesting physics tidbits from around the web. Lots of YouTube videos that can be helpful for the classroom.

**Dot physics** (<http://blog.dotphys.net/>) is written by a physics professor, and includes a lot of great physics content, activities, and geeky commentary on Myth Busters and laser pointers. Definitely worth a look.

### Also of interest

**PERticles** (<http://perticles.blogspot.com/>) highlights the latest articles from physics education research.

**Cosmic Variance** (<http://cosmicvariance.com/>) is written by a group of physicists and astrophysicists. This popular blog features a wide array of topics including science, culture and academia.

**Uncertain Principles** (<http://scienceblogs.com/principles/>) is written by a physics professor, mostly about physics, politics, and pop culture.

**Think Twice** (<http://ianbeatty.com/blog/>) is written by a physics education researcher and includes several posts about learning and teaching in general, and physics in particular.

### Other Resources

- **Science Blogs** (<http://scienceblogs.com/>) is a collection of high-quality blogs about science (sponsored by SEED magazine). Not all blogs on science are at Science Blogs, but you can find a great many of them here. Check out their daily digest too.
- **How to subscribe to a blog** You don't have to check the website every time – you can have new posts sent to you automatically (this is what most

of us do). See [http://email.about.com/cs/rss/a/rss\\_spam\\_free.htm](http://email.about.com/cs/rss/a/rss_spam_free.htm) for some instructions on how to do so.

- **Lists of blogs**

- See more physics-related blogs than you can shake a quark at, here: <http://cosmicvariance.com/links/#pblogs>
- And science blogs written by women (including a subcategory of physics blogs by women) here: <http://scienceblogs.com/sciencewoman/blogrolls.php>
- And top 100 Education blogs are here: <http://oedb.org/library/features/top-100-education-blogs>

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