



WebSights

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WebSights features reviews of select sites presenting physics teaching strategies, as well as shorter announcements of sites of interest to physics teachers. All sites are copyrighted by their authors. This column is available as a web page at <http://PhysicsEd.BuffaloState.Edu/pubs/WebSights>. If you have successfully used a site to teach physics that you feel is outstanding and appropriate for *WebSights*, please email me the URL and describe how you use it to teach. The person submitting the best site monthly will receive a T-shirt.

Customizing Google for Physics and Science

Teachers, <http://www.google.com>, permits internet surfers to create their own updating internet science magazines. Google is an infamous search engine (recently achieving verb status) that is customizable using the “personalized home” link at the top of the main search engine page. After providing an email registration (the “sign in” link), a Google user may create a personalized home from a large collection of regularly updated XML web content. You will need to make use of the links labeled “make it your own,” “show more,” and “add more content” to create your daily update for the world of physics or science teaching. For instance, searching on “physics” turns up five strong resources including feeds from *Physics Web Events*, *Physics Web News*, *Physics Today magazine*, *Institute of Physics News*, and *Physics Org*. Searching on “science” produces about 130 feeds. If you want to assemble several topical collections, different Google personalized homes can be stowed as tabs.

The above items were contributed by Michael Magnuson, physics & calculus teacher, Canisius High School, Buffalo NY.

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More Physics of Sports:

Physics of Tennis by Rod Cross, <http://physics.usyd.edu.au/~cross/tennis.html>. Cross has published widely on tennis, including an article in *The Physics Teacher* (Sept. 2001). His site on tennis physics has recently been updated extensively and also includes physics of cricket and some video film concerning physics of ball collisions and ball bounce at oblique angles. Cross also suggests several other sports physics sites:

- <http://www.engr.colostate.edu/pool> has an incredible amount of easily digested information on the physics of billiard ball collisions. Such collisions are fundamental in mechanics courses but are quite different in real life
- <http://www.tennisplayer.net> has superb high-speed video film of racquet and ball collisions (mostly devoted to stroke styles and needs a paid subscription to see the whole site).
- <http://www.itftennis.com/technical> shows how the ITF tests balls, courts, racquets etc.
- <http://www.tennisserver.com/set> has a readable monthly col-

umn and archive of tennis science material composed by Dr. Jani Pallis.

The physics of sports, a particularly noteworthy site by Liz Woolard, a National Board Certified physics teacher from W.G. Enloe GT/IB Magnet HS in Raleigh, NC, at <http://home.nc.rr.com/enloephysics/sports.htm> is recommended. Woolard’s collection includes discussions relevant to auto racing, baseball, basketball, cheerleading, cycling, figure skating, football, golf, gymnastics, ice hockey, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and volleyball (as of this writing).

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Compendium of submitted URLs on various topics:

Complete online archives for *The Physics Teacher* at <http://scitation.aip.org/tpt/> were recently expanded to include scanned copies of pdf articles for all issues back to the very first (Vol. 1, Issue 1) of April 1963. For articles without abstracts, the first paragraph of the article together with author and bibliographic information was used as the abstract. Another reason to join the AAPT and subscribe to *The Physics Teacher online*, <http://www.aapt.org>.

Teachers recruiting for HS physics recently called my attention to *Why Take HS Physics?* <http://www.intuitor.com/physics/> and Eight Reasons to take Physics by intuitor.com at <http://www.intuitor.com/physics/physmain.html>. Tom Rogers of Southside High School, Greenville, SC, also hosts the Insultingly Stupid Movie Physics pages (previously reported in *WebSights*) at the same site.

The *QuickMath* site, <http://www.quickmath.com>, by Dr. Ben Langton from the University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia was recently pointed out to me by a colleague, Steven Highland of Buffalo State Physics (in turn pointed out to him by a student). This free tool is an easy-to-use front end for webMathematica and has multiple uses, but it’s most popular in the introductory college mechanics course right now for solving kinematics problems.

Honda Motors Accord is a two-minute advertisement “Cog” featuring energy transformations, <http://www.ebaumsworld.com/flash/honda-ad.html>, recently re-pointed out by Sarah Kwitek, middle school science teacher from Springville Middle School, NY.

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