LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
May 22, 2020

Social distancing isn't just keeping us apart. It’s giving us a chance to reach out in other ways because, well, we’re bored.

Maybe not bored. Maybe antsy is a better word. So one of the things I’m doing to keep me “seated” (as opposed to "grounded") is watching different YouTube channels on science - and more specifically, Astronomy. So here are my favorite YouTube channels for keeping “in touch” with Astronomy:

1. Dr. Becky (UCYNbYGI89UJowy8oXkipC-Q). Talk about vibrant! Her captivating delivery includes a closing session on a few mistakes she makes during the recording session. Dr. Becky talks about Astronomy news (she calls it “Nigh Sky News”) and oddities about Astronomy (like the 10 unanswered questions in Astronomy).

2. Anton Petrov (whatdamath). “Hello Wonderful Person!” Sometimes a bit dry, but always informative with a few down to earth segments like “Discovery that a lightning strike leads to unexpected events.” Sometimes Anon and Dr. Becky talk about the same thing - like the biggest black hole in the universe - but Anton goes into a bit more detail, albeit without the antics that Dr. Becky provides.

3. SciShow Space (SciShow Space). Every week you’ll find answers to questions that you haven’t even thought of, like is there really a donut-shaped planet? Several rather excited presenters give fast-paced explanations and descriptions of the oddities of science.

4. Parth G (InfamousPillarKid). A Physics guy that makes learning the hard stuff easy and fun. Want to know more about Bosons and Fermions? How about a deep dive into Heisenberg’s Uncertainty Principle. He knows that math can be grueling, so he keeps it as simple as high school math.

5. Fermilab (fermilab). Antimatter. Subatomic forces. The “real” width of the universe. There are an amazing diversity of physics discussions that are really down to earth.

6. Arvin Ash (UCpMcsdZf2KkAnfmxig2MfMQ). Arvin likes to take on the hard questions in science - and non-science (nonsense). In about 10 minutes with animations and live video, Arvin covers everything possible with a perspective that might appear to be a bit cynical at times (he is a bit of a skeptic). But that gives it a personal touch.

7. StarTalk (startalkradio) with Neil deGrass Tyson. Here’s a video podcast where Neil and friends try to answer some serious questions about science, but knowing Neil, it just can’t stay serious for long.

I hope you find something to keep you “grounded” while stuffing your head with trivia about space and science.

John Carter Sr
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