Kessler Syndrome & the Future of Satellites

Try to live a day without artificial satellites. We depend on satellites for: remote sensing (weather forecasts, space telescopes), communication relays (cable news, internet, entertainment), precision location (GPS, GLONASS). It’s getting crowded out there. Both accidental and deliberate collisions have occurred. Each collision creates a cloud of debris. Every piece of debris is now a new satellite. Eventually Low Earth Orbit (LEO) is too crowded for humans and machines, possibly ending our access to space, indefinitely.

Zoom Link: https://uky.zoom.us/j/85143338784
An all-sky chart for this month can be found here.

Tonight’s Kentucky SkyTalk is part of an ongoing series. These are presented by the UK Department of Physics and Astronomy, and the MacAdam Student Observatory. Held every 2nd Thursday of the month, they are always free and open to the public.

Next month:

September 8, 2022 - 8:00 PM