

SATELLITE RETRIEVAL, REPAIR & RE-LAUNCH

One of NASA's long-range goals for its Space Shuttle has been to use it for retrieval of non-working satellites, repair them in space, and then re-launch them from Shuttle. The crew of Challenger's 41-C mission proved that it could be done. Here is information on important commemorative covers processed by SCCS for this "first". They can make a collection in themselves.

CHALLENGER SETS ALTITUDE RECORD

Challenger, on its launch of Mission 41-C on April 6, 1984, climbed to a higher orbit than any other shuttle...290 miles high...as it set out to reach the orbiting Solar Maximum Satellite. The Solar Max, was wobbling along in space 290 miles above the Earth, because its guidance mechanism quit over three years ago. We have a commemorative cover for this altitude record, postmarked with the Houston MPP hand cancel.

SOLAR MAX RETRIEVED

Unable to bring the wobbling Solar Max into Shuttle's cargo bay on Sunday April 8, Challenger's 50-foot remote arm was used on April 10, to grab the satellite. This was the first capture of a free-flying satellite and set the stage for future retrieval and repair missions. Astronaut Terry Hart, captured the satellit with the arm and brought it safely into Challenger's cargo bay. Our cover hand cancelled with the MPP hand cancel.

REPAIRED SOLAR MAX RE-LAUNCHED

The Solar Max Satellite was released back into space on April 12, 1984, from aboard Challenger, where it had been successfully repaired. This was the first capture of a satellite, repair of it, and re-launching back into space. It was a milestone for NASA. Our cover is hand cancelled on April 12 with the MPP hand cancel Houston.

DOUBLED CANCELLED COVERS

CAPTURE & RE-LAUNCH CANCELS

The first cancel is on April 10, 1984, when Solar Max was captured by Challenger's remote arm and brought into the cargo bay for repair. The second cancel is on April 12, when the successfully repaired satellite was re-launched back into space where its mission of studying the Sun could continue. Both cancels are the Houston MPP hand cancels.

SOLAR MAX LAUNCH & RE-LAUNCH

This cover is a "gem". We took a few of our original supply of covers postmarked Cape Canaveral February 14, 1980 (launch of Solar Max) and added a second stamp and cancel of April 12, 1984, the re-launch date from Challenger. This second cancel is the Houston MPP hand cancel. We have only a few of these as we did not have many uncached left of our original covers. This double-cancelled cover has it own cachet with information about both launches.

----- CUT HERE -----

TO: SPACE CITY COVER SOCIETY, P. O. Box 53545, Houston, Texas 77052

Please send me the following covers for Challenger's 41-C mission:

_____ Challenger Sets Altitude Record (Apr 6, 84) @ \$1.25	\$ _____
_____ Solar Max Retrieved (Apr 10, 84) @ \$1.25	_____
_____ Repaired Solar Max Re-launched (Apr 12, 84) @ \$1.25	_____
_____ Double Cancelled cover (Capture Apr 10, 84 and re-launch of Apr 12) @ \$2.50	_____
_____ Double cancelled cover (Original launch CC Feb 14, 80 and re-lauch from Challenger Apr 12, 1984) @ \$2.95	_____
Postage and handling35
Total remittance	\$ _____

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

(1984 #2B) Please send one addressed, gummed label with order. Thank you.