

## NASA LOCAL POST

The NASA Local Post was created by the Space City Cover Society of Houston, Texas after the tragic deaths of the Apollo 1 crew on January 27, 1967 during a training session at Cape Kennedy's Launch Complex Pad 34 in Florida.

The Space City Cover Society attempted to commemorate the astronauts for the supreme service by producing covers of the tragic event in space history.

The Society found that no NASA station had or used any philatelic marking or canceling device. The search continued for a space cancel but found that none existed.

The Society decided to form a local post and produce local post cancellation devices plus local post issues to commemorate space events of all kinds relating to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The NASA Local Post in no way is connected with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The Post is dedicated to filling the United States Postal Service void of space cancellations and issues.

This exhibit is dedicated to everyone involved with the space program and to promote the peaceful continued exploration of space.

## LOCAL POST DEFINED

Local posts were first formed to provide some mail service to remote areas with little or no official postal service. Modern day local posts are more towards the novel and philatelic functions than providing some real postal service. However, a few local posts do provide limited service.

The NASA Local Post when first established, served the philatelic void of space cancellations. Under a new Federal Regulation, the post is allowed to deliver "extremely urgent" mail. This requires strict record keeping and delivery within tight time frame. The NASA Local Post is one of the few posts that provide novel as well as official functions.

There are no laws, regulations or fees regarding the establishment of local posts and almost anyone can start a local post. Most local posts are nonprofit organizations which make them tax exempt.

Local post issues are restricted in use. As with any other seal or non-postal item they can not be used to pay for official postal service. The issues can be used only by the issuing post for their services such as the "extremely urgent" mail or novel functions.

## NASA LOCAL POST COVERS

NASA Local Post covers commemorate the posts issues and events. The posts covers differ from Postal Service First Day Covers as they have two cancellations. One cancellation being the posts, the other an official USPS cancel from Houston, Texas with a valid USPS issue.

The later posts covers, such as the one displayed have matching cachets.

Thousands of covers have been prepared by the post to date.

### NASA LOCAL POST CANCELS

From the beginning of the post three different cancels have been used on post covers.

Cancel #1 was first used on Feb. 20, 1967

Cancel #2 was first used on Feb. 23, 1976

Cancel #3 was first used on Aug. 12, 1977

### PRIVATE EXPRESS COVERS

On November 26, 1979 the U. S. Postal Service allowed the delivery of mail by other private businesses to ease their burden of extremely urgent mail delivery.

NASA Local Post performs this service for a minimum fee of \$3.00 which must be charged as required by the federal regulation allowing such delivery.

The post has issued a new series of covers and issues for this purpose. These covers differ from the commemorative covers as they only bear post issues. These covers do not receive any postal service handling and fall under the category of Private Express Mail.

### PRIVATE EXPRESS REQUIRED MARKINGS

Federal regulation states that all mail privately delivered under the classification of "extremely urgent mail" must bear two additional markings. One marking must show delivering business and fee charged, the other marking must read; "Extremely Urgent, Must be Delivered by 5:00 p.m. of Postmarked Date".

These required marking may be supplemented by any other canceling marking needed by the delivering business.

The post uses the same canceling devices to cancel the covers as used to cancel the regular issues.



## ISSUES OF THE NASA LOCAL POST

The following are all of the posts issues printed from its creation in 1967 to date. A total of 80 souvenir sheets have been printed and issued.

The post only issues the locals in souvenir sheet format. All issues are perforated. None have been issued in the imperforate form.

The issues are in chronological order of issuance in this exhibit. The catalogue number is assigned by the post.

All of the post issues commemorate a space event, space flights, astronauts, NASA officials, space centers and space issues issued by the USPS.

## PRIVATE EXPRESS MAIL ISSUES

The private express mail issues were created for the purpose of showing pre-payment of "extremely urgent" mail delivered by the post. The post operates this service under the name of Space City Courier Service.

These issues as well as the regular issues commemorate space events of all kinds. Booklet #1 is a local which was previously issued but surcharged with the required minimum rate of \$3.00. All express mail issues will bear the current minimum delivery rate.

The post sells the express mail issues to collectors at a reduced rate as a benefit to collectors of post material. To have your "extremely urgent" mail delivered, you must pay for the service when the letter or package is presented for delivery.

All of the private express mail issues are printed in souvenir sheet format. The souvenir sheet being enclosed by an outer cover. The cover also commemorates the issue. Again, all of the issues are perforated. The booklet may contain one or more panes.

At present, the post plans on continuing this series with the honoring of all the astronauts that have flown in space.