

The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 3 October 2004

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

American City Flag Survey	1
NAVA 38 Frivolities	2
October 2004 Flutterings	3
Did You Know?	3
Some Flag Related Web Sites	3
Next Meeting Announcement	4
Vexillonnaire Award	4
The Flag Quiz	5

Results of American City Flag Survey

NAVA has completed its first survey of American city flags, identifying the best and worst civic flags in the country. It found some great designs and many more that need improvement. See the results in full color at: <http://www.nava.org/citysurvey.htm>

The poll ran on NAVA’s website, asking members and the public their opinions of 150 flag designs: the 100 largest cities in the U.S., all state capitals, and at least two cities per state.

Ten Worst Flags:

- 141. Montpelier, VT
- 142. Cedar Rapids, IA
- 143. Provo, UT
- 144. Lubbock, TX
- 145. Hialeah, FL
- 146. Mesa, AZ
- 147. Milwaukee, WI

Ten Best Flags:

- 1. Washington, DC
- 2. Chicago, IL
- 3. Denver, CO
- 4. Phoenix, AZ
- 5. St. Louis, MO
- 6. Wichita, KS
- 7. **Portland, OR**
- 8. Indianapolis, IN
- 9. Louisville, KY
- 10. Corpus Christi, TX

Responses came in from 66 NAVA members and over 400 members of the public.

Respondents preferred simple, brightly-colored, and distinctive flags; they scorned flags with complicated designs, city seals, or writing on them. The highest-scoring flags all embody the five basic principles listed in Ted Kaye’s flag-design guide, **“Good Flag, Bad Flag.”**

(Continued on page 2)



Thanks this month to Ted Kaye and Harry Oswald for contributing articles to this newsletter. I would also like to thank Marshall Goldberg for volunteering his home in October.

If you wish to compliment the editor, or to contribute in the future, contact John Hood at 503-238-7666 or vivijohn@comcast.net. If you wish to complain, call your mother.

American City Flag Survey

(Continued from page 1)

The survey celebrates the publication of NAVA's book, *"American City Flags: 150 Flags from Akron to Yonkers"*, the culmination of 40 years of research by former NAVA president Dr. John Purcell and a team of fellow vexillologists.

The survey has contributed new insights into the public perception of flags and their design. It was promoted on NAVA's website (<http://www.nava.org>) and in its newsletter, on the unequalled flag website "Flags of the World" (<http://www.fotw.net>), and in the on-line *American Vexillum Magazine*.

Some comments:

"The flags I liked the most were simple, evocative, and distinctive."

"There are a few of these that I doubt have ever been produced in cloth. Sadly, some have."

"Tell everyone to stop writing all over their flags. This would help immensely."

"Some flags are reason enough to keep flag burning legal; if I were in Pocatello or Provo, I'd buy up the entire stock of their flags and use them for winter heating!"

"It's nice to see that there are cities in the US which understand good flag design."

"The trouble with most city flags is that they look like CITY fags!"

NAVA 38 Frivolities



Under the checkered meeting flag of black and white, 40 NAVA members & guests converged on the Radisson City Center Hotel in downtown Indianapolis for an exciting NAVA 38 on the weekend of October 8-10. PFA members Harry Oswald and Ted Kaye attended.

From the initial flag-raising with national anthems to the adjournment of the meeting with officer flags flying, the program upheld the NAVA tradition of an interesting, informative, and entertaining weekend. Flag stands with all past annual meeting flags adorned the hotel's lower lobby.

Most of Saturday was devoted to presentations, nine papers demonstrating the latest in vexillological scholarship in North America. The Captain William Driver Award for best paper went to Dev Cannon, for his outstanding analysis of the competing claimants to authorship of the first national flag of the Confederacy. A "Hoosier Banquet" (with Harry in a white tuxedo!) capped off the day.

On Sunday, NAVA members assembled with national, personal, officer, and meeting flags to form a motley parade, following a bagpiper four blocks north to the imposing Indiana War Museum. There the curator led a tour of the entire museum, including such gems as a U.S. national flag

carried at the Battle of Gettysburg with over 300 bullet holes in it. In a special treat, she invited NAVA members "into the vaults" where the Civil War flags are stored in massive archival shelving units. *The Indianapolis Star* featured a color photo of the parade in the next day's edition.

All during the meeting members shared flags, books, posters, and other items on display and sale tables. In an auction by the Shopkeeper *pro tem*, several large flags went for unbelievably attractive prices.

The next meeting, NAVA 39, will be held in Nashville, Tennessee and planning has already begun!

Papers Presented at NAVA 38

Star Patterns, Dave Martucci

Changing Perspectives on Vexillology, Whitney Smith

The Genesis of the Stars and Bars, Devereaux Cannon

Flags of Meso-America, Rafael Yates Sosa

The Hawaiian Flag, Patrick Ka'ano'i

The Eagles of Buenos Aires, Gustavo Tracchia & Francisco Gregoric

The "Pine Tree" Flag in the American Revolution, Peter Ansoff

Betsy Ross—An American Patriot and Legend Revisited, John Harker (her great-great-great-grandson)

American City Flags—The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly, Ted Kaye

October 2004 Flutterings You Need to Know

We had a good turnout of the usual suspects at Marshall Goldberg's house in October. He even had the Baltimore flag out to greet us.

During the "Show and Tell", Harry Oswald displayed the flag of The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations.



This flag was designed by Sophie Rault because of a request to NAVA from the Healing Lodge. The Healing Lodge is a Native American substance-abuse facility in Spokane, Washington. The July - September 2004 issue of NAVA News contains the story of the design-process and has color illustrations of the flag design sequence.

He also displayed the Clatsop - Nehalem tribal flag. The flag can be seen on the tribes web site: <http://www.clatsop-nehalem.com> the flag was designed by Mark Scovell, the son of tribal chairman Joe Scovell.



A new 4"x6" flag of the Isle of

Woman designed and made by Peter Orenski was brought back from NAVA 38. It consisted of three shapely nylon clad legs with high heels in a triskele like the Isle of Man on a pink background. According to Peter it was his most popular flag at the annual meeting. Although Peter gave credit for the idea to Harry, Harry first saw the flag at NAVA 23 in Dallas on a T-shirt worn by Dave Pawson's wife.

Harry also brought over 200 - 4"x6" flags purchased from the huge collection of the late Glenn Compton. He is well remembered as the costumed Uncle Sam at past NAVA meetings. Peter Kinderman of Flaggs U.S.A. in Cincinnati was selling them at the annual meeting for Glenn's widow.

From: *The World of Flags* by William Crampton, Rand McNally & Co., 1994

The biggest flag that actually flies from a flagpole is the flag of Brazil displayed at the federal capital, Brasilia. This flag is 230 ft. by 328 ft. (70m by 100m). There is a report of the same sized flag of Mexico flying in Ensenada. The biggest

Ted Kaye brought a full-size flag of Western Ukraine (Lviv). Work colleagues (software contractors) from Ukraine had presented it to him, following a visit to the US when he had welcomed them with the Ukrainian flag. They decided he needed the flag more commonly flown in their part of the country, and brought him the horizontal bicolor, red over black, with the Ukrainian symbol printed in gold metallic ink in the upper hoist.



Did You Know?

flag in the world is a US flag, 255 ft. by 505 ft. It was draped across Hoover dam in Nevada and can be seen at <http://www.superflag.com/doc/guinness.htm>.

The tallest flag is probably on the Federal Building in Canberra, Australia. It is 266 ft. tall, but that doesn't include the height of the building.

Some Flag Related Web Sites

North American Vexillological Association <http://www.nava.org>

Flag Institute (United Kingdom) **NEW** <http://www.flaginstitute.org>

Flags of the World **NEW** <http://www.fotw.net>

Elmer's Flag & Banner <http://www.elmersflag.com>

Darwin's Flagman (Australia) <http://www.nationalflags.com.au>

January Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, January 13, 2005, at John Hood's house, 208 SE 39th Ave., telephone (503)238-7666). See the map below.

Following is the schedule for the remainder of the year:

April 14 — Mike Hale's

July 14 — Ted Kaye's

October 13 — Marshall Goldberg's

All for this, of course, is subject to ice storms, wind storms or other flag events that may conflict.

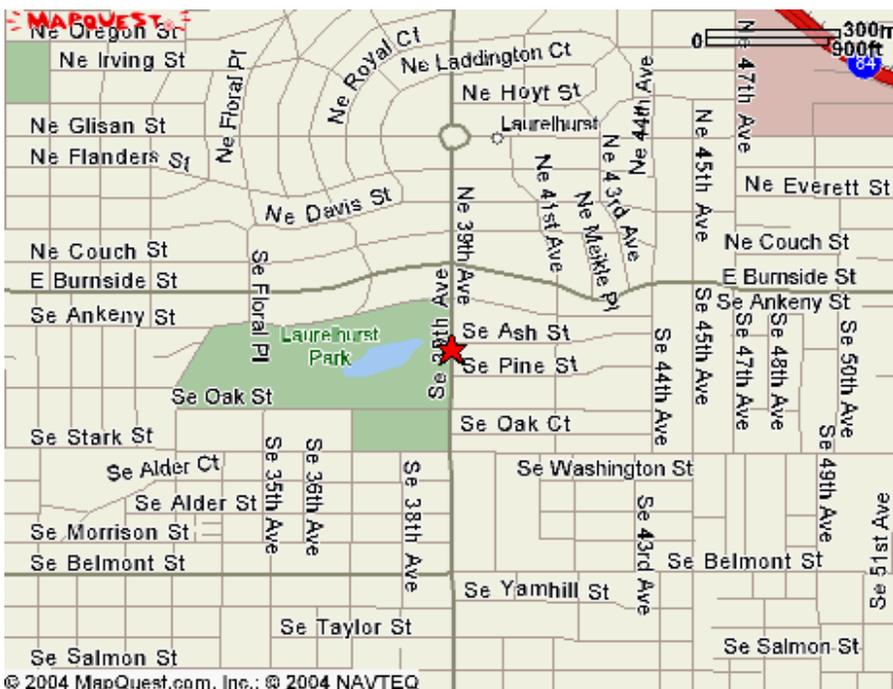
We look forward to seeing those of you that have been otherwise committed, and hear some new war stories, see some different flags, and hear some provocative discussion.

In addition, bring an idea for a new Oregon state flag. So far we don't have many to choose from.

Discussions at the meeting are very unstructured, but a topic for the next meeting may very well be the new flags that have been adopted around the world.

Many of us belong to other flag associations, e.g., The Flag Research Center (Massachusetts), The Flag Institute (England), SAVA (South Africa), The Flag Society of Australia, and The Canadian Flag Association. The publications of these organizations keep us abreast of what's happening in vexillology and recently have described new flags for Chechnya, Montenegro, Cyprus and the most recent proposal for Iraq.

If you think we have problems with flags and national anthems in schools, you should read of the *stoush* (fracas) going on in Australia!



Vexillonnaire Award

At the 2003 NAVA meeting in Montreal, NAVA announced the creation of its Vexillonnaire award and honored two PFA members with it.

The Vexillonnaire recognizes a **significant** and **successful** act of **activist vexillology**, involving flag design or usage, in North America.

Douglas Lynch won for revisiting his 1969 design for the flag of Portland in a successful effort to simplify and improve it following sound flag design principles, through an effort assisted by several PFA members.

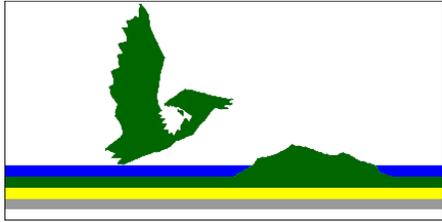
Ted Kaye received his for the compilation and publication of *Good Flag, Bad Flag*—the NAVA guide to flag design, and for the conception, coordination, promotion, and documentation of the Great NAVA Flag Survey in 2001. The awardees received certificates and medals.

Our heartfelt congratulations go out to these members of our group for their true activism in the world of flags.



What was that flag? Answers to October's quiz

What's That Flag?



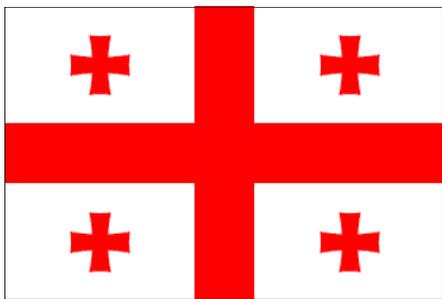
Cape Breton Island, NS, Canada

Notice the Bald Eagle is in the shape of the island? The green line rises up to represent the Cape Breton Highlands.



Macao, China

The white lotus above a stylized bridge beneath the arc of five stars from the flag of China was designed by a professor from Henan University who had never visited Macao, but rather read a tourist guide.



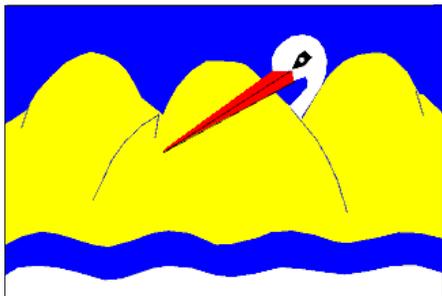
Georgia (Republic)

New flag as of January 14, 2004. The "Queen Tamar Flag", named for a 13th century queen was used by the National Movement of the new president.



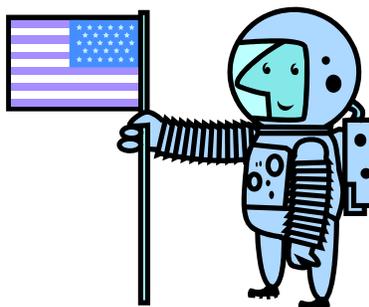
Roswell, New Mexico, USA

The Zia symbol comes from the New Mexico state flag and the white circle in the upper left symbolizes the enigmas of the heavens. Remember, Roswell is where the body of an alien was allegedly found!



Kijkduin, ZH, The Netherlands

This is a proposal for the bathing resort near The Hague. It is an example of canting, or representing the name with a picture. Kijkduin means watch dune!



Don't let the stars get in your eyes! Name these flags and bring your answers to the next PFA meeting:

