



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

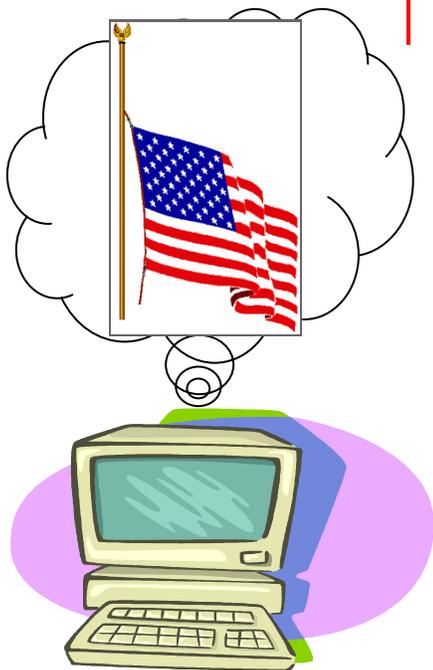
"Free, and Worth Every Penny!"

Issue 30 October 2011

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www.portlandflag.org



***Haul up the flag,
you mourners,
Not half-mast
but all the way...***

—Karl Shapiro

John Hood 1934-2011

The Portland Flag Association has lost its mainspring. John Hood who died September 18 at age 77 after a battle with cancer.

He was a charter member of our Portland Flag Association, a group which grew from the organizing committee for the 1994 NAVA 28 meeting in Portland.

Years ago, after Harry Oswald moved to Texas, John took over the "central coordinator" role for the PFA, and created and published this *Vexilloid Tabloid* for 29 sparkling issues.

Everyone who drove on S.E. 39th Avenue opposite Laurelhurst Park knew the home John shared with Vivian Jackson as the "Flag House". Passersby enjoyed John's changing daily display of three flags from his collection of over 600 full-size flags, based on a database of flag-flying days he'd compiled over several years.

John was the first and most gracious host of our now-bimonthly meetings, catered with bountiful sweets baked by Vivian. In his living room in 2002, we hatched a

successful effort to redesign the 1969 flag of the City of Portland. After PFA members arranged political support, testified before city council, and watched the re-design ordinance pass unanimously, Mayor Vera Katz asked us to replace the council chamber's old flag. John attached the newly-adopted flag to the pole, becoming the first person to raise Portland's current flag.

We will miss his jovial spirit, expansive knowledge of flags, and commitment to inclusion and conviviality.



John Hood and Mayor Vera Katz with the first updated Portland Flag, 2002.

If you wish to compliment the interim editor, or to contribute in the future, contact Ted Kaye at 503-223-4660 or kandsons@aol.com. If you wish to complain, call your mother.

In John Hood's Footsteps

By Ted Kaye

John put out a call for help with the *Vexilloid Tabloid* in the last issue (#29, November 2010).

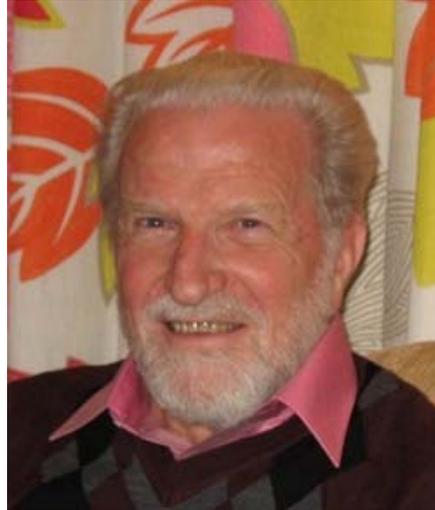
David Koski responded, and has been gathering content from PFA members (thanks especially to Michael, Patrick, and Max.) Acting as “interim editor”, I’ve pulled together this issue. I hope that among us is someone who wants to take over the layout role from me. Please contact me with and interest or questions, and meanwhile continue to send content items to me.

On our meeting schedule...we shifted to bi-monthly meetings in 2010, which means six of us play host during the year. I’m pleased that the following steadfast members have volunteered for the next few meetings.

We meet the second Thursday of odd-numbered months. Please mark your calendars for PFA meetings at 7:00 PM at the following dates/locations:

11/10/11 Mike Hale
 1/12/12 Michael Orelove
 3/8/12 David Ferriday
 5/10/12 John Schilke
 7/12/12 Ted Kaye
 9/13/12 Scott Mainwaring
 11/8/12 Mike Hale

We’ll make sure to get timely meeting announcements out by e-mail or snail mail.



John Hood.

The PFA has a strong and active membership, involved in many flag-related areas—scholarship, publishing, design, collecting, manufacturing/sales, and just plain enjoying flags.



We average 8-12 people at each meeting, which I believe makes us the most active regional group in North America. In fact, there is no other similar group based in a single metropolitan area.

Among our current projects is the advancement of the Oregon Flag Registry, under Scott Mainwaring’s leadership. John Hood felt strongly about this effort and I believe that we will honor his memory by taking it to the next level.

John’s database of flag-flying days needs a steward, as well...far from a static list of dates, it encompasses “moveable feasts”, flag days which fall on a certain day of the week, and other dynamic dates. Perhaps one of us can pick up the responsibility for tending it. The 2011 version can be seen on the Elmer’s Flag website: www.elmersflag.com/holidays.cfm.

I note that only four of our current active members were on the PFA membership roster in 2000. That means new folks have been joining each year, many recruited by John. So as a final tribute to him, we should all be on the lookout for prospective members!

Some Flag-Related Websites

NAVA www.nava.org

FIAV www.fiav.org

Flags of the World www.fotw.net

Elmer’s Flag & Banner
www.elmersflag.com

Flag Institute (United Kingdom)
www.flaginstitute.org

Darwin, Northern Territory
 (Australia) www.nationalflags.com.au

Flag Society of Australia
www.flagsaustralia.com.au

Flag Research Center
www.flagresearchcenter.com

Southern African Vexillological
 Association www.savaflags.org.za

United Nations Flag Project

By Michael Orelove

I have all 50 state flags, different historical American flags, some city flags, and various other flags, but very few national flags. I give flag presentations in schools and various community organizations and wanted to have additional national flags.

Rather than purchase a full set of all the national flags I decided to write letters to all the nations and request the donation of a flag for educational purposes. In January I sent out 192 letters to all the nations of the United Nations and waited. In the following months I received a total of 15 flags.

The flags were all different sizes from 4 x 6 inches to 3 x 5 feet. Some countries included information about their flag and country. The Maldives sent one large flag and two smaller flag. Lebanon sent one cloth flag and 10 paper flags. Some flags were mounted on sticks and some included bases. Three nations sent letters stating that they did not have any flag to send me.

I took all the flags I received to the Troutdale Elementary School in Troutdale, Oregon, and gave a flag presentation. I took a group picture of the kids holding the flags.

The flags shown in the photo are:

Back wall: **Poland, Maldives, Kuwait, Nicaragua, and Lebanon.**

Also on the wall is a map of the world with dots on the countries relating to the flags. The students learn where all the countries are



Students at Troutdale Elementary School with Michael's flags.

from the flags. This is a fun way to teach world geography.

The boy in the back is holding both the flag of **Panama** and the flag of the **Bahamas**.

Front large flags: **Philippines** and **Slovakia**.

For the Philippine flag I explained that the flag is flown with the blue stripe on top during times of peace and the red strip on top during times of war. The boy in the middle of the Philippine flag recently moved here from the Philippines.

For the Slovakian flag I explained that there are two different versions of the flag, for when the flag is flown horizontally or vertically, so that the coat of arms is always upright.

Middle section: **United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Georgia, New Zealand, Saint Lucia, and Mexico.**

In June I sent a second letter requesting a flag to all the nations that did not send me a flag the first time. The letter included the photo of the kids holding the flags and a newspaper article about another flag project I was involved in. I am again receiving flags. To date I have received another 15 flags in different sizes. Most are cloth flags and Namibia is a paper flag. Many nations have sent lots of tourist information about their country. Malaysia also included three lapel pins.

This is a fun project and each day I do not know what the mail will bring.

Editor's note:

Michael brought many of these flags to our September meeting, and showed the binder in which he is collecting all the correspondence with the nations' representatives and photos of himself with each flag. More arrive each month.

2011 Flutterings You Need to Know

We've met five times since the last issue of this newsletter, with great attendance at each meeting. Our get-togethers were in the odd-numbered months between January and September 2011.

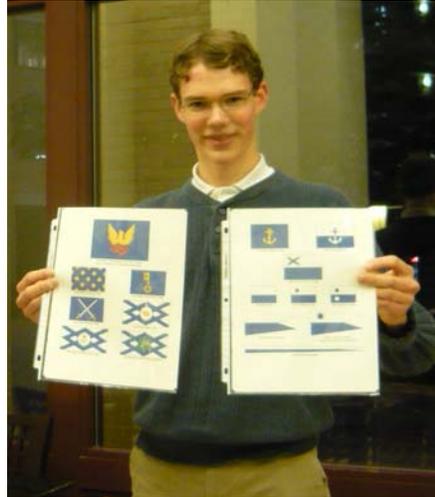
We thank our hosts—John Hood, David Ferriday, John Schilke, Ted Kaye, and Scott Mainwaring—for putting up with us.

In our meetings we covered too much to include in one issue of the *Vexilloid Tabloid*, but we'll report on some highlights.

David Ferriday, who hosts our meetings in his marvelous architectural design studio in a converted loft in Northwest Portland, always has some item of flag-related Americana to share with us. Among his flags are large banners associated with his alma mater, William & Mary. He has developed a personal flag, which we hope will be described in a later issue.



**David Ferriday collects flag-related Americana—
here is one of his favorite items.**



Max Liberman shows his flags of the Kingdom of Æfira, an invented country, at the 24th International Congress of Vexillology. (see VT#22)

Ted Kaye has shared extensive details of the planning for the 24th International Congress of Vexillology, held in the Washington, D.C., area in August 2011. We helped with these efforts in a modest way by helping to choose the nametag holder and the tote bag design. We examined several samples of each and voted on them, ultimately selecting the final products that the Congress distributed to each participant. Ted reported afterwards that they were a big success, thanked us for our help, and gave ICV 24 tote bags to two lucky PFA members.

Speaking of the Congress, among the 125 vexillologists there, three PFA members attended: Ted Kaye, Max Liberman, and Scott Mainwaring. It was the first congress for Max and Scott, and each greatly enjoyed the experience.

Scott Mainwaring has traveled extensively this year, and often brings back items to share and books that he has acquired. He is also maintaining the Portland Flag Association Facebook presence and our website, which is the go-to place to find current information (this newsletter platform seems a bit dated by comparison!): www.portlandflag.org.

We always count on John Schilke for Latin translation, Ken Dale for wordplay, and Fred Paltridge for insightful commentary.

Michael Orelove has been very busy, often introducing flags to schoolchildren. One big project was creating a set of historic US flags for Troutdale Elementary School. The students created their own star patterns for all 27 versions of the American Flag, turning them into a display of 3' x 5' flags painted on wood.



Troutdale students make U.S. flags.

In another project, which Michael describes on page 3, he has been soliciting and sharing national flags from all the United Nations member states.

(Continued on page 5)



Scott Mainwaring and Michael Orelove with a new “gray-scale” U.S. Flag.

Flags in the News



In July Ted Kaye did an interview on NPR’s “How to Do Everything” podcast. Its Episode #20 opened with a heavily-edited 2-minutes on **South Sudan’s** flag and flag design.

<http://howtodoeverything.org/post/7577540667/we-tell-you-how-to-design-a-flag-make-perfect>

The flag derives from that of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement. According to the government of South Sudan, on the flag “**Black** represents the black African people of South Sudan. **White** represents Sudan peace for which many lives have been lost. **Red** represents the blood of the gallant freedom and justice fighters who have been lost in the many years of conflict. **Green** represents agricultural potential exemplified by the fertile soil and rich equatorial vegetation adorning the South Sudan countryside. **Blue** represents the River Nile, which is the main source of life not only in South Sudan but also in [north] Sudan and all the way to Egypt. The **Star** represents unity of the states of South Sudan. The flag, therefore, signifies one nation of black Africans united in the struggle to perpetuate peace and prosperity for all the people of South Sudan.”

(Continued from page 4)

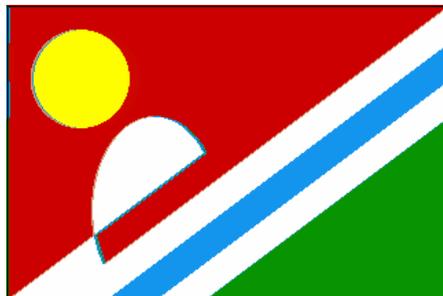
Michael has acquired a 3’ x 5’ U.S. flag in shades of black, gray, and white. This grayscale flag appeared in the music video “Put On” by the rapper Jeezy, and can be bought on eBay for \$4.50.

Different meanings have been ascribed to it, including racial interpretations, the struggle of all Americans in the economic recession, and a protest against the current wars (being bled dry). There was also a mention of its possible use by Tea Party activists—again with the “bleeding dry” meaning.

Patrick Genna usually brings a number of current flag articles from the local or national press, and often regales us with a small quiz or contest.

He has designed a personal flag. Its green, white, and red colors

indicates his Italian immigrant origins and the red-white-blue his American citizenship. Also, the blue-white-red (in reverse) represent his place of birth, St. Louis, a French settlement founded 25 years before the Revolution of 1789. The royal *fleur de lis* represents St. Louis, while the Mississippi and Missouri rivers below it are represented by a triple wave of white-blue-white. The yellow or gold disk represents both the Midwestern (Missouri) sun and a turning circle of life and death centered in Buddhism.



The personal flag of J. Patrick Genna.

Honoring the Designer of the “new” Oregon State Flag

The PFA has honored Randall Gray of West Linn for his re-design of the Oregon State Flag, which received the most votes in *The Oregonian's* contest last year.

In a celebration hosted in February by Mike Hale at Elmer's Flag & Banner, the mapmaker for Clackamas County was given a 3' x 5' version of his winning design.

Most members of the Portland Flag Association came for the ceremony. At the end of the event, Mike Hale took us all on a behind-the-scenes tour of the flag store.

The story of the flag contest is reported in *NAVA News* No. 205 January-March 2010, including designs of ten finalists.

Interestingly, two PFA members) out of over 2,000 entrants) had designs in that top ten. (Doug Lynch was one, and we invited Randall Gray to join the PFA after the contest).

The Oregonian had sponsored an effort to redesign the state's flag in anticipation of Oregon's 150th birthday in February 2009.

The quality of the entries was stunning—hundreds of them would have made a successful state flag. While professional graphic artists participated and submitted spectacular designs, so did amateurs and schoolchildren.

Mike Hale and Ted Kaye helped with an initial culling process.



Mike Hale presents designer Randall Gray with his “new” Oregon Flag

In two weekend sessions of 2-3 hours each, they selected about 240 entries for further consideration by the flag jury.

After that jury selected the 10 finalists, newspaper readers gave Randall's beaver design top votes. However, without a legislative plan and no support from the governor, the effort to update the official flag went nowhere.

The Oregonian described Randall's design process: “Always interested in flags and design, Gray was unimpressed with the front of the Oregon flag. But the back, with the beaver, was another matter. “The backside is the start of something good.” The meaning: “Blue and gold for the state colors with green to represent trees and wilderness Oregon was blessed with. White contrasts between the dark blue and green. The beaver from the current flag links us with the past. The star represents

Oregon's place in the Union.”

Elmer's Flag and Banner generously made up the flag, using the beaver image from another entrant, Tom Lincoln. It is likely the only such flag extant in that design!



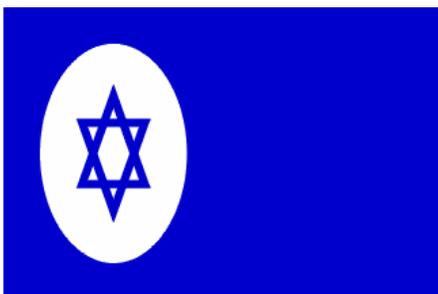
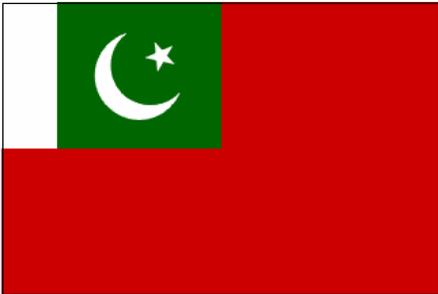
Mike Hale talks flag fabrication in the sewing loft at Elmer's Flag & Banner.

What's that Flag?

By Max Liberman

Some national civil ensigns (flags flown on civilian ships) differ from the national flag.

What nations do these six civil ensigns represent?



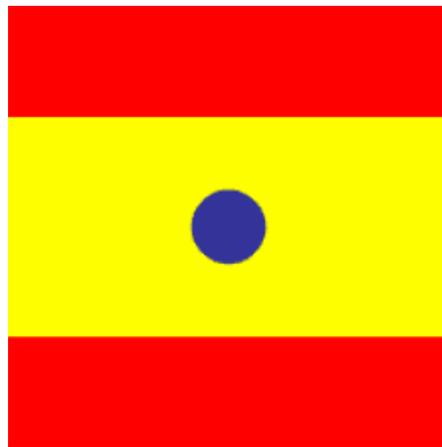
What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

These flags all had something in common. Did you guess?

They are all military rank flags.



Austria-Hungary, Admiral, 1915-18.



Spain, Rear Admiral.



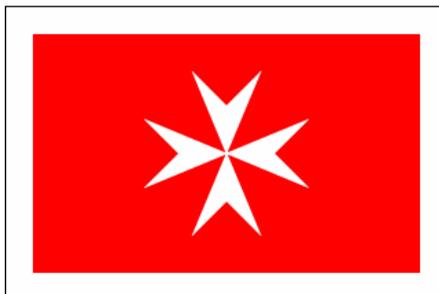
Brazil, Air Force Lieutenant Colonel.



Pakistan, Air Chief Marshal, 1958.



Thailand, Admiral, 1891-1917.



One of these flags flying at sea—photo by Ted Kaye, January 2003.

Old Glory Afghan

By Michael Orelove

Kathleen Forrest recently crocheted an afghan for me. The name of the pattern is “Old Glory”, a common nickname for the flag of the United States.



The “Old Glory” afghan.

This famous name was coined by Captain William Driver, a ship’s captain from Salem, Massachusetts. The original Old Glory was made and presented to the young Captain Driver by his mother and some young Salem ladies in 1824. It is a large flag, measuring



The original Old Glory.

10 feet by 17 feet. In 1831, as he was leaving on one of his many voyages aboard the brig *CHARLES DOGGETT*, the banner opened to the ocean breeze and Driver exclaimed “I’ll call her *Old Glory!*”

When Driver retired, he moved to Nashville, Tennessee, and his wife and daughters re-made the flag, taking the star count from 24 to 31 and adding an anchor. During the Civil War, Driver feared that the rebel government would attempt to destroy the locally famous Old Glory, so he had the

flag sewn inside a comforter to conceal it. When Union forces took Nashville in 1862, he loaned his flag to fly over the state capitol, and in the press coverage the name “Old Glory” became applied to the U.S. flag in general. Years later, the flag was given to his granddaughter or niece and she later donated it to the Smithsonian.

The close-up of the star from the afghan pattern shows a hole in the center. This is a spur rowel (pierced star), which appears on some early American flags.



Pierced stars (spur rowels).

November Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, November 10, 2011, at Mike Hale’s house, 4904 S.W. Martha St., (503) 245-5283. See the map at right.

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

If you can’t get to the meeting, perhaps you can give the editor something to share with our readers.

