

# The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 13 April 2007

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## A Flag for Maturín, Venezuela

By Ted Kaye

In December 2006, Venezuelan vexillologists helped the city of Maturín (population 400,000) adopt a flag. The capital of the state of Monagas in eastern Venezuela, Maturín is named for an indigenous chief. In perhaps the first hands-on use of the Spanish version of *Good Flag, Bad Flag*, Rafael Orta Prado trained contest jurors in the principles of flag design. They evaluated contest entries and scored them using Mason Kaye’s “K Scale,” which awards points based on *GFBF* principles. They presented five finalists to the public for a popular vote, which was ratified by the members of the municipal council.

A music teacher, Felix Cetrone, created the winning flag design. The flag is a vertical tribar in proportions of 2:3, of equal stripes of red, yellow and blue (from the hoist). Ten yellow five-pointed stars are arranged vertically on the red stripe, slightly off center toward the hoist. The red stripe alludes to the blood spilled by the heroes of Maturín, the yellow stripe recalls the wealth of the area, and the blue stripe represents its hydrological resources. The stars sym-

bolize the city’s ten parishes and the central image represents Cacique Maturín, a chief who lived with his tribe on the bank of the Guarapiche River and died in battle against the Spanish in 1718.



Maturín, Venezuela

*Editor’s note:* On March 12, 2006, Venezuela officially adopted a new flag with eight stars and the horse on the coat of arms facing the other way. The eight star is to honor Simon Bolivar, who originally proposed it in 1817 for the province of Guyana. The opposition party refuses to acknowledge it.



Venezuela (3/12/2006)



**It is with such baubles  
that men are led.  
—Napoleon I**

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

## BANNER BABBLE

By Vivian Jackson

It's spring, at last, and for banner lovers the world over, that means all the drab, cold, dreary winter banners are being replaced with bright, airy flowers, trees, birds, butterflies and bees. Interspersed, of course, are the many rain banners since in spring, the Oregon rains simply don't stop.



An Oregon duck in the rain



Then the sun comes out!

For a conscientious banner person to fly inappropriate banners about the weather or the times is equivalent to flying Santa on December 26th. The Banner Police will issue citations faster than they can consume a Krispy Kreme. Self-appointed banner police are rising up everywhere at long last—certainly a force to be

reckoned with. No longer will we be seeing Valentine's banners flying at Easter.



With Tulips, Irises and Daffodils



More Tulips and a visitor

Banner flying is becoming extremely popular throughout the Portland area. People are constantly at my door inquiring about my unique banners and where they can be obtained. Portland flag businesses spend enormous amounts of "ka-ching" on advertising while all I do is fly them in front of my house to share with the captivated Portlanders racing by on

39<sup>th</sup> Avenue, many of whom ultimately speed right down to Mike Hale's for some intense banner shopping. It's a location thing.



And Cone Flowers

Beautiful banners flying in the breeze are yard candy for the entire neighborhood. Next time you want to spruce up your front entrance for guests and passers-by, consider starting a banner collection. It's an adventure that will see you through every season of the year, and the sheer retail therapy of yet another banner you can't live without brings untold joy to the soul. Someone once said, "One banner leads to another." I resemble that!



With an angle to water them

## April 2007 Flutterings You Need to Know

A lot of show and tell went on at the last meeting. Mike Hale brought several of the 4"x6" flags that are not selling. Items that were good ideas at the time but were too time sensitive to last: The Constitution Bicentennial, The 500th Anniversary of Columbus's Voyage, The Statue of Liberty. The latter Mike plans to give to the Statue of Liberty gift shop in New York.

Michael Orelove brought some unusual flags he made. One he sewed at home but the canton has the fifty stars in "a new constellation" highlighting the Big Dipper (after all, he is from Alaska). The other flag was made of wire and quite suitable as a garden ornament.

Ted Kaye showed us his collection of pins with flags from FIAV meetings and other travels. They make a great collection for easy display and take up far less space than my collection of 3'x5' flags and probably less room than Kevin Harrington's collection of postcards with flags! Ted also brought an Argentine Flag and the ICV21 Flag that were mounted on wooden stands with working hal-yards.

John Schilke has been trying to acquire a Pax Cultura Flag from the Roerich Museum in New York but it seems they are no longer available. Does anyone know of another source for this flag? If you don't remember the Pax Cultura, Scott Mainwaring wrote an article about it and the Red Crystal of Culture for this newsletter last April.

Segue into Scott's presentation—a friend had brought him what he thought was a flag from Dubai but it turned out to be the UAE, instead! So far as we know, Dubai has not replaced its flag with that of the Union as Sharjah did. Scott is still working on Wikipedia entries, particularly the early jacks. He is also developing a gallery of quartered flags.

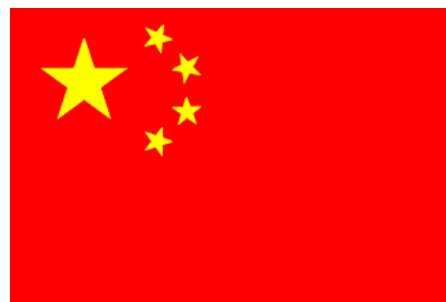
Ken Ray is a long haul truck driver and sent us a postcard from the Little White House in Warm Springs, Georgia. It shows a very impressive "Walk of State Stones and Flags" that it says displays the 51 state flags and the District of Columbia. What is the 51st state? The display is quite impressive, but our own circle of flags in Salem is equally dramatic because they can all be seen with one glance!

John picked up a book at Powell's (surprise!), *How Alaska Got Its Flag* (2000), by Bernd and Susan Richter, Saddle Pal Creations, Cantwell, AK (ISBN 0-9663495-4-7). It's a delightful little children's book about Benny Benson from Seward, Alaska, who won the state flag design contest in 1927. He also shared the various Flaginforms from the Flag Research Center and the latest Virtual Flag Magazine, "eFlags", from the Flag Institute in England.

Since our group is so active in the world of vexillology, with two of our members having received the Vexillonnaire Award and various other awards over time, we felt it was time to have our own flag! Doug Lynch said he would try to put something together if each of us would describe what we would like to see in the flag.

That may not work because people have already come up with concepts for the entire flag rather than just elements. Most seem to center around the Portland City Flag, which after all did come in seventh in the American Cities Survey. At the next meeting we'll see if we have a consensus.

Mike was going to leave for a kite conference in China a couple of days after the meeting, Scott was going to South Africa, Ted was going to California, John will be going to the Alaska later in the year. Michael felt like a stay-at-home so he announced that he was going to Damascus! For those not familiar with the area, there is a small town just a few miles from Michael's home that is named Damascus. **Happy trails!**





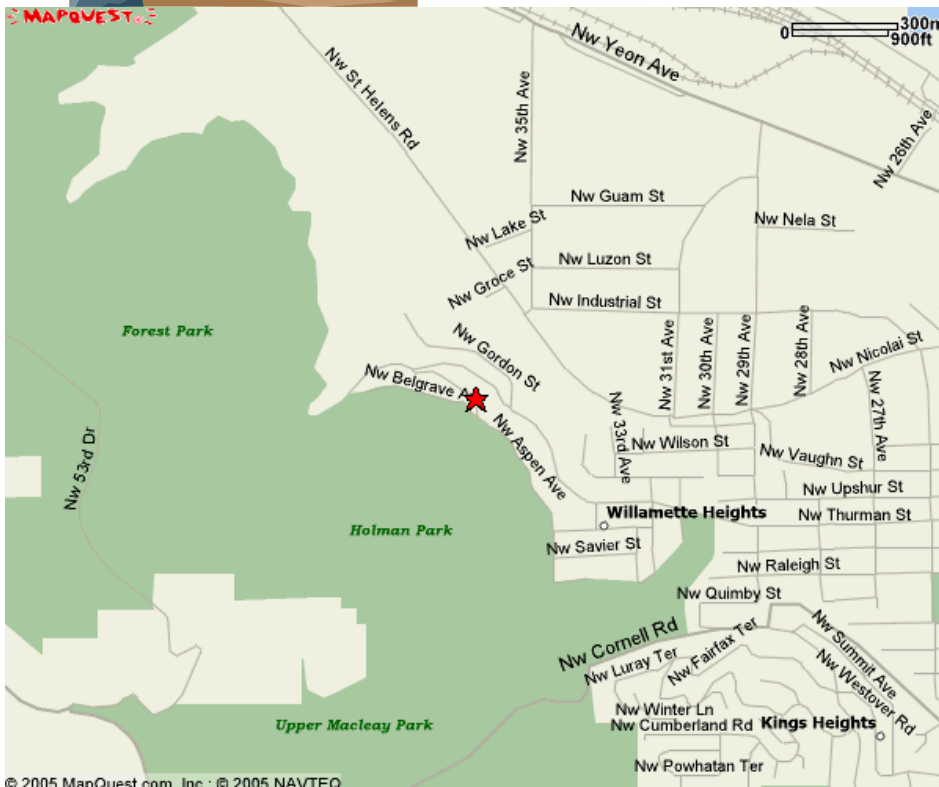
# July Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, July 12, 2007, at Ted Kaye's house, 2235 NW Aspen Ave., telephone (503) 223-4660. See the map below.

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.

Any and all flags, books or articles are welcome for “show and tell.”

If you can't get to the meeting, perhaps you can give the editor something to share with our readers. As you can see, we have many interests.



## Flags in the News



**Supporters of Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko shout slogans to support his decree to dissolve parliament during a rally Wednesday in Kiev. Yushchenko is willing to put his order on hold, a top aide said, but it appeared that move was unlikely to be enough to end the nation's crisis.**

SERGEI CHUZAVKOV  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this rally some of the flags from the “Orange Revolution” in 2004 of Victor Yushchenko have been modified so that instead of “Yes! Yushchenko”, they say “Our Ukraine”, while keeping the lucky horseshoe. A visit to FOTW will show a lot of Ukrainian political flags and what seems like half of Kiev waving them.

There have been many more pictures in the newspaper of rallies with po-

litical flags of one persuasion or another, but I usually forget to save them until it's too late. If anyone out there would send me a copy of a flag in the news, I would appreciate it.



## Some Flag Related Websites

NAVA <http://www.nava.org>

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

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

Elmer's Flag & Banner [http://  
www.elmersflag.com](http://www.elmersflag.com)

Darwin, Northern Territory (Australia)  
<http://www.nationalflags.com.au>

Flag Society of Australia <http://www.flagsaustralia.com.au>

Flag Research Center (Massachusetts)  
<http://www.flagresearchcenter.com>

Southern African Vexillological Assoc.  
<http://www.sa-va.org.za>

## OFFERINGS FROM ELSEWHERE

Harry Oswald, our separated brother in Texas, has sent us a couple of items:

"I just received a Xmas present from a train friend. It is a packet called *The Tibetan Prayer Flag Pack*. There is a book called *The Book of Blessings*. There are also several photos of prayer flags. Besides the book, the pack contains two 8-foot-long prayer flags. One set of flags is traditional, offering ancient Tibetan blessings—the other is ready to be personalized using two of the enclosed indelible fabric markers.

"The publisher is Cider Mill Press in Kennebunkport, Maine.

[www.cidermillpress.com](http://www.cidermillpress.com)



"Can't find it on their web site, but there is a link to three sizes of prayer flags plus miniatures at

[www.turtleislandimports.com](http://www.turtleislandimports.com)

"The Tibetan Prayer Flag Pack is available from: guess who/where, amazon.com for \$10.17 plus S&H."

*Editor's note: It is also available at Elmer's Flag and Banner.*

The other item has been severely abridged for space:

### From PULL TOGETHER

Newsletter of the Naval Historical Foundation.

Vol. 45, No. 3, Fall/Winter  
2006/2007

By Eric Dietrich Berryman

Many Navy related projects commemorated the Republic's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. One less publicized project was the creation of a jack inspired by a Revolutionary War rattlesnake flag with the legend "Don't Tread on Me."

In 1973, J. William Middendorf II was Under Secretary, soon to become Secretary of the Navy. With his interest in history, Middendorf inquired about Navy planning for the 1976 bicentennial celebration. At the time, Lt. Cdr. G. William Eibert headed a division within the office of information that would oversee the Navy's efforts

Eibert proposed authorizing every Navy commissioned ship to fly a specially produced bicentennial jack in place of the traditional 50-star jack. There was no detailed contemporary depiction of a Revolutionary War rattlesnake jack. How many twists in the snake's body? How many rattles in the tail? Do the words "Don't Tread on Me" print on both sides? (They do not.) What should be the snake's skin pattern? The timber rattler was favored because it is most common to the northeastern United States. A coiled snake on a yellow field designed by Col. Christopher Gadsden was rejected early on as being too specific to a single personality. The alternating horizontal red and white stripes version had a much more general application, it was decided.

U.S. Flag and Signal Company in

Norfolk, Va., was the sole manufacturer who could deliver enough stock, in all the regulation sizes, for every flag locker in the fleet by 13 October 1975, the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Navy's founding. Making the flag challenged the manufacturer because of the amount of hand sewing and the extra complication that the body of the snake was to be separately silk-screened and sewn on the flag.

The "First Navy Jack" proved to be hugely popular for the 18 months surrounding the bicentennial, after which it was retired. Shortly thereafter, in light of the many bicentennial jacks remaining in stock, the decision was made to recognize the oldest commissioned ship in the fleet (other than the USS *Constitution*) by permitting that ship to fly the jack, currently the USS Kitty Hawk (CV63). The jack returned to fleet-wide use a year after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon to mark the Navy's commitment to winning the global war on terrorism.



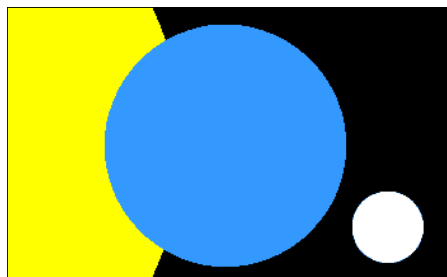
First Navy Jack



USS Kitty Hawk (CV63)

## What Was that Flag? Answers to last quiz

Scott wrote about stars on flags but what about the moon on flags, and not just the crescent that appears on many Islamic nations' flags, but the full disk?



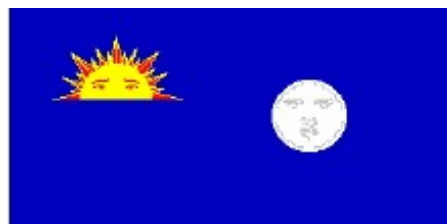
Flag of the Earth

Designed by an Illinois farmer after the first moon landing to represent us all as passengers on spaceship earth. The relative dimensions are not quite right for the sun, but the flag became very popular among astronomers and SETI.



Auglaize County, OH

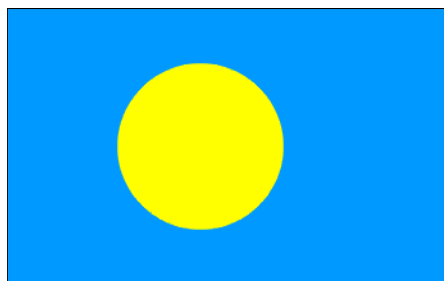
The name was erased for the quiz, but the footsteps are a hint to Neil Armstrong's home town in Ohio of Wapakoneta, the county seat.



Colombia 1806, Brigantine Leandro

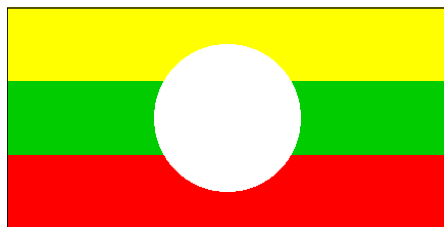
According to FOTW, this was the flag of the brigantine Leandro in 1806, about the time the captain of

the Leandro was having his sail maker sew a tricolor, similar to what we see today in Colombia.



Palau

The full moon plays an important role in harvests and signifies Palau's emergence as a sovereign country. The blue ocean signifies the constancy of Palau, surviving various foreign dominations.



Shan State, Myanmar

The white moon signifies the pure and peace-loving people. The red, of course, is bravery, the green—agriculture, and the yellow is the color of Buddhism.



## What's that Flag?

When Kurt Vonnegut died recently, I went back and reread a few of his books. In one of them, he describes a flag for an unusual organization. Than I remembered that Heinlein did the same in a couple of his books. Thank Reaside for FOTW because there I found some more. Here are four— what books, authors and entities?

