

The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 14 July 2007

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Portland Flag Association Teaching Flag

By Michael Orelove

The Portland Flag Association Teaching Flag is used to identify the various parts of a flag and is an example of both good and bad flag design.

The obverse side is an example of bad flag design using lettering, but since it is intended to be a teaching tool, the letters are as large as possible so that they can be read from a distance.

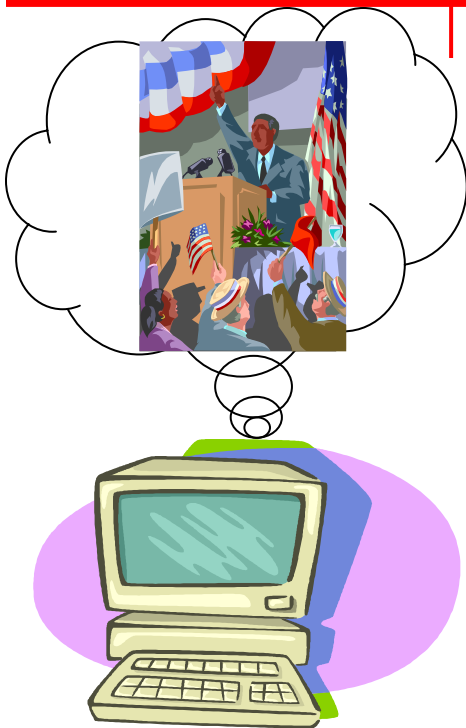


Reverse of Teaching Flag

Another flag design teaching element is the “official” size of the flag. The official dimensions of the United States flag are 10 x 19. When the flag is reproduced in standard flag sizes of 2 x 3, 3 x 5, 5 x 8, etc, the flag is distorted from the official shape. The correct dimensions for a 5 x 8 flag should be 5 x 9.5. The official dimensions of the Teaching Flag are identified as “any standard flag size” which prevents the flag from ever being distorted.

The Teaching Flag is distinctive and will not be confused with any other flag.

Editor’s note: Where is it written that an organization can’t have more than one flag? See all the other proposals on page 2.



“A politician will do anything to keep his job—even become a patriot.”
—William Randolph Hearst



Obverse of Teaching Flag

The reverse side is an example of good flag design, a simple blue flag with a canton containing the Portland city flag in the same ratio as the city flag.

Using the same colors as the city flag and identifying the parts of the flag are some of the symbols used to represent that this is a flag of the Portland Flag Association.

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.

A Flag for the Portland Flag Association

By John Hood

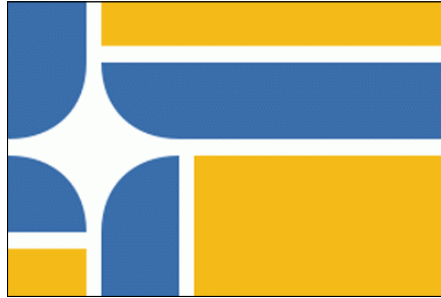
The Portland Flag Association has been functioning under various names but with undaunted enthusiasm for almost thirteen years and members feel that we have proven ourselves in the world of vexillology well enough to rate our own flag.

Our first thought was to have Doug Lynch, the father of the Portland City Flag, design an appropriate banner for us. He suggested that we provide him with symbols, designs or concepts that appealed to us and he would play with them.

As it turned out, rather than providing ideas, members have forwarded actual designs for the entire flag. Obviously there is dreadful partisanship in using elements of the City Flag, but then it did rank seventh in the Cities Survey.

There is one more flag and it has a name attached. See the article by Michael Orelove on page 1 of this newsletter.

The designs submitted so far are the following (without names, to protect the unimaginative):



#2



#6



#3



#7



#4



#8



#1



#5



#9

July 2007 Flutterings You Need to Know

Almost as a welcoming to the meeting at Ted Kaye's, the house next door was festooned with flags. The house is that of Bill Hilliard, retired Editor of *The Oregonian* and former president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors. He collected the flags on his many trips to promote press freedom around the world.



Once inside his house, Ted gave us a preview of the talk he will be giving in Berlin at the ICV22 conference in August. It was quite a PowerPoint presentation with many of the pictures and maps we in the West have become familiar with.

Harry Oswald paid an unexpected visit from Texas and brought with

him the 1871-1918 Royal Standard of Prussia.

We had a new person attend the meeting and make a welcome contribution. A few days before the meeting, my door bell rang and there stood a young man, James Barker, who wanted to buy a flag! He said he was interested in Scandinavian history and their ancient religions and that he had designed some flags in that vein. Needless to say, I invited him to the meeting and his input and questions were beneficial to us all. Some of his flags are shown in a separate article on page 4.

Michael Orelove, besides discussing his training flag that is featured on page 1, had a few other flags from his eclectic collection. There was a

49 star flag which is fairly rare since it was only applicable for one year. He superimposed an Alaskan flag on the canton of a U.S. flag, i.e., colored in gold the stars that make up the big dipper. I'll try for a picture in the future. There was also a seven star flag which we decided would represent Maryland. Unfortunately, Marshall wasn't there to contest it. Michael and his brother have been champions at gold panning in Juneau for many years. This year Michael participated (and won) under the flag of Gresham, his new home, so he showed both the Gresham and the Juneau flags.



Gresham, OR (In Lilac)



Juneau, AK

Mike told us about his trip to China to a kite flying convention and that every government building, no matter the function, flew the country's flag. Many just flew a solid red flag without the gold stars. He also told us about a website that had pictures of healing lodge flags flying:

(Continued on page 7)



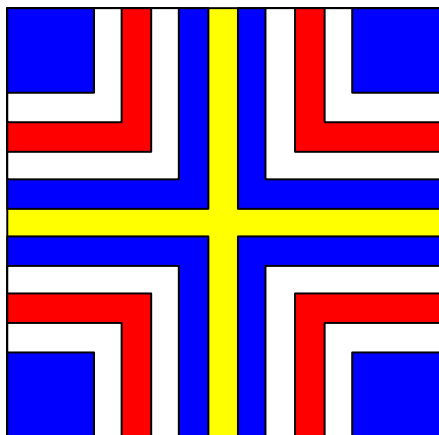
Some Old Designs for New Flags

By John Hood/James Barker

James came to my door one day to buy a flag. I told him that I collect them, I don't sell them. Of course we talked and I showed him my collection and invited him to the next meeting, just a few days away.

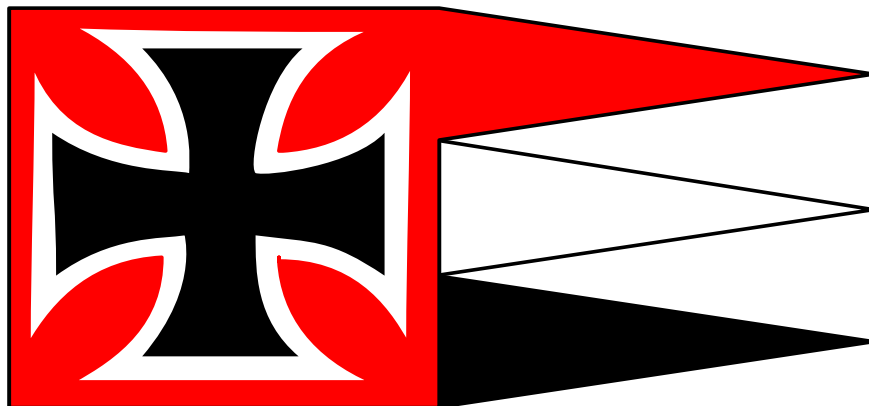
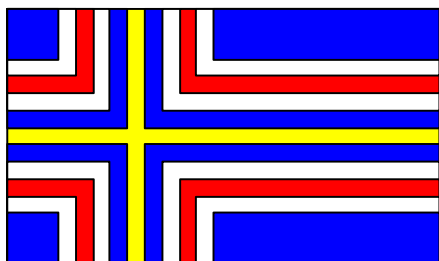
It seems James has an interest in, and a wide knowledge of, ancient Norse and Pan-Germanic religions, partly because of his Scandinavian heritage. This has induced him to design flags with some old symbols.

He brought sketches of several flags to the meeting and I've spent countless hours attempting to computerize the images.



Universal Scandinavian Flag

This incorporates the colors of the Scandinavian nations from the center out: Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark and Iceland. The Faroe Islands are there, but not in order. This flag could be in the form of the Scandinavian Cross



Rot, Weis und Schwarz

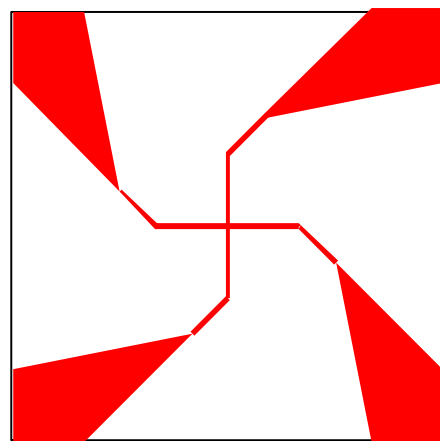
The Cross Pattée has been a Germanic symbol since the crusades and the Teutonic Order and lends itself to the swallowtail design.



Thor's Hammer

The hammer was easy to recreate, but the Armanen runes were hard since I couldn't find the fonts for this version. What James has drawn along the edge was developed by Guido Von List in the late nineteenth century as a simplification of the Elder and Younger Futhark, or runic alphabet.

The Fylfot dates from the Anglo-Saxon times. Currently the Odinic Rite uses it for a holy symbol. It has been used by many cultures to symbolize the sun's travels, the four directions or the four seasons.



Fylfot

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>

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>

Flags in the News

Mike had a nice write-up in the Portland Tribune recently. What this caption fails to mention is that Mike is very much into kites these days. The article says that Elmer's carries a staggering array of various flags—

that seems an understatement when you enter the store. It's really great fun to browse through everything, but rarely have I left without buying or ordering a new flag for my collection!



Michael Hale, owner of Elmer's Flag & Banner, took the helm last year after his stepfather opened the business almost 50 years ago. Besides various decorative house flags, Elmer's also offers flagpoles, banners, weather vanes, windsocks and more.

In addition to the Turkish flags being the same color. Who knows what waved, there are the winning political party flags—not necessarily all



Supporters of the Justice and Development Party wave Turkish and party flags outside party headquarters Sunday in Ankara. The Islamic-rooted party won parliamentary elections on Sunday.

Hundreds of thousands, perhaps a million Bolivians packed the streets of La Paz to protest the attempt to move the government's executive and legislative branches from La Paz to Sucre, where the judicial branch is currently housed. Bolivian and La Paz flags are in great abundance!



Indigenous leaders known as the Red Ponchos join demonstrators demanding that the executive branch of government remain in the highlands city of La Paz, Bolivia.

The giant new Ikea store has just opened near the airport and this is a blurb from The Oregonian.

Was That an Ikea Flagpole?

Students from Prairie High School's Junior ROTC, clad in their regular dark blue uniforms, helped dignitaries raise flags on three poles in front of the massive store. Up went the U.S. flag. Up went the blue and yellow Swedish flag. Then Bill Wyatt, executive director of the Port of Portland, began tugging at Oregon's own blue and yellow flag.

And tugging.

After several minutes and some assistance from Ikea employees, he gave up, but not before Store Manager Ken Bodeen announced that the still-lowered flag by no means reflected his company's excitement about being in Oregon.

What Was that Flag? Answers to last quiz

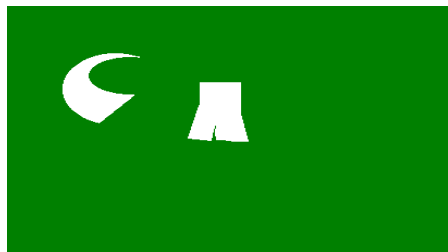
People with an eclectic taste in literature will probably have identified these flags of fiction:



Luna Free State

Professor Bernardo de la Paz said, “When Luna adopts a flag, I would like it to be a cannon *or*, on a field *sable*, crossed by bar sinister *gules*, of our proudly ignoble lineage.” *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*, Robert A. Heinlein, New York: Tom Doherty Associates, Inc., 1997 page 258.

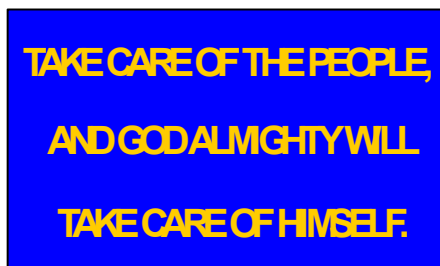
Later when the flag is actually flying, it changes some. “... a flag fluttering in blower breeze—black field speckled with stars, bar sinister in blood, a proud and jaunty brass cannon embroidered over all, and below it our motto: TANSTAAFL!” (There ain’t no such thing as a free lunch!) Ibid page 381.



The Republic of Animals

“Snowball had found in the harness-room an old green tablecloth of Mrs. Jones’s and had painted on it a hoof and a horn in white. The flag was green...to represent the green fields of England, while the hoof and horn signified the future Republic of the

Animals...” *Animal Farm*, George Orwell, New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co., 1946 page 26.



The Church of God the Utterly Indifferent

“The flag of that church will be blue and gold,” said Rumfoord. “These words will be written on that flag in gold letters on a blue field: *Take Care of the People and God Almighty Will Take Care of Himself.*” *The Sirens of Titan*, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., New York: Dell Publishing Co., 1959 page 180.



The Restored United States of America

In the book, *The Postman*, by David Brin, only “Old Glory” is mentioned, but in the movie when the postman returns to Pineview, this flag is flying in front of the post office.



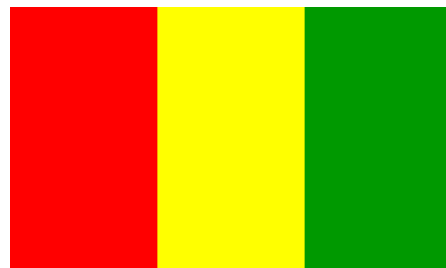
The World Directorate

“Of course!” said Rud. ‘Cross off all the flags.’ He made the world flag a

white saltire on azure. And for all regional or local purposes he had a white saltire, imposed upon the national or provincial colours. All over the world now the birthday bunting fluttered, bearing over every racial or cultural symbol that white clasp of peace.” *The Holy Terror*, H.G.Wells, North Yorkshire, UK: House of Stratus Ltd, 2002 page 385.

What’s that Flag?

A while back Scott told us about a study of confusing flags; flags that while they were different, were hard to tell apart out of context. These rank right up there on the confusion scale:



October Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, October 18, 2007, at Scott Mainwaring's house, 7144 SW 29th Ave., telephone (503) 977-3222. 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.

Ted Kaye will tell us about ICV XXII he attended in Berlin. Mike Hale will probably have some more terror tales of the flag business. We'll definitely be discussing the adoption of a flag for the PFA, so everyone should get their oar in the water. Perhaps James will have some more flags to share. In addition, as is shown by some of the articles in this newsletter, we also seem to be trivia buffs. So any little tidbits you may come up with will be welcome. Ken

Dale, do you hear me?



Adam and Jimmy were sent out to see how tall a flag pole was. While they were standing around trying to figure how to measure this tall flag pole, Dakota comes along. She says, "What are you up to, boys?" Adam says, "We're supposed to find out how tall this pole is." Dakota takes one of their crescent wrenches, unbolts the base, lays the pole down on the ground and borrows their tape measure. She measures the pole and says, "Fourteen feet, six inches" and walks away. Jimmy turns to Adam and says, "Ain't that just like a woman, we want to know how tall it is and she tells us how long it is!"

July Flutterings

(Continued from page 3)

http://www.tmealf.com/native_flags_flying.

I have been giving some talks on the history of the U.S. Flag lately. One was to the Military Officers of America Association. It was quite a group that knew most of the historical flags and kept me on my toes. Someone asked why the First Navy Jack was called a "jack." I said because it was flown from the jack staff — "Why is it called a jack staff?" They had me there. Subsequently I decided that it was probably because it was a small staff and "jack" is a term for many undersized things, e.g., jack corn, jackdaw, jack pine, jack leg. Does anyone have another explanation? A woman at the meeting gave me a copy of Alfred Znamierowski's, *The World Encyclopedia of Flags* in the handier octavo size.

For Father's Day, my son gave me *Flags of the Fifty States and their Incredible Histories* by Randy Howe, 2004, The Globe Pequot Press, Guilford, CT. It provides a short history of each state with a little trivia thrown in; however, I'm told there are many errors in this edition. At Powell's I picked up *The Directory of Flags: A guide to flags from around the world*. By Charlotte Greig, 2005, Chartwell Books, Inc., Edison, NJ. It is set up geographically in an octavo ring binder which is good in that it opens flat, but the geographic sequence is difficult to track.

Overall, there were a lot of words flying around Ted's house that night.

