

# The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 15 October 2007

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## A New Flag for North America?

By Ted Kaye

The conservative magazine *The New American* debuted a putative flag for the “North American Union,” the “NAU,” that it fears current U.S. policies are drawing the continent toward forming. In the issue of 15 October 2007, editor Gary Benoit says, “As the artistic rendering of the flag on this magazine’s cover suggests, a new North American Union would come about as a result of the merger of Canada, Mexico, and the United States.” He goes on to advance a case for what the “political, academic, and business elitists in North America have in mind,” those who “hope to build NAFTA through a series of steps into a supra-national North American Union,” and urges readers “to help us inform others and put a stop to the planned merger.”

The entire special issue of the magazine is devoted to explaining its concerns about immigration, constitutionality, currencies, trade, and politics surrounding these trans-continental issues, ending with an article “connecting the dots between stagnant incomes, job losses, North American integration, open borders,

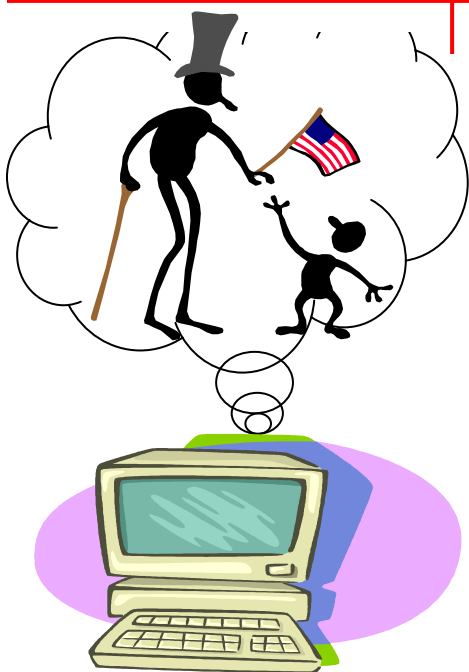
‘free trade’, and globalization.”

The magazine’s cover, designed by Tom Preimesberg and Cathy Spoehr, shows a crowd apparently pledging allegiance to the combined flag of the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. The upper half comes from the U.S. flag (with the full canton at the hoist and six stripes alternating red and white at the fly); the lower half from the Mexican flag (without any central emblem); and overlaying the center, from top to bottom, is a white stripe 20% of the flag’s width bearing a reduced Canadian maple leaf in the center.



The image is of an actual flag manufactured for the photo shoot, as sources at the magazine explained to Michael Hale, NAVA member and president of Elmer’s Flag & Banner in Portland, Oregon. Although the magazine clearly meant to portray the flag and

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**Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.**  
—Adlai Stevenson

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.

## A New Flag

(Continued from page 1)

what it might represent in a negative light, Mike has been inspired by the design to create one and put it up in his store to investigate interest in printing some for stock—contact [info@elmersflag.com](mailto:info@elmersflag.com) for details on purchasing one.

*The New American* is published by American Opinion Publishing, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of The John Birch Society. A pdf of the magazine is available at <http://www.jbs.org>.

## A Flag for Lafayette, Indiana

In the forthcoming NAVA News there will be an article on how Lafayette, IN got it's new flag. This advanced information that Ted Kaye gave us is an example of how vexillology really works. The mayor's Youth Council was given the project of creating a flag for their city and they went about it with remarkable skill. They studied the area's history and using *Good Flag, Bad Flag* as a guide, the team spent seven months developing a flag that was simple, unique and symbolic of this city on the banks of the Wabash river.



Lafayette, IN

## Timberline Lodge Celebrates 70 years of Doug Lynch's Art!



Timberline Lodge with President Roosevelt's motorcade in 1937

September 28th marked the 70th anniversary of the official opening of Timberline Lodge with an address by President Franklin Roosevelt. Our member Doug Lynch was one of the people who provided the artistry for the lodge in 1937. Seventy years later his work can still be seen on the walls of the restaurant. His murals depict mountain scenes of skiing and camping. They

are made of linoleum, carved for texture and stained with colors.

Doug had made a name for himself decorating major department stores, but working on the mountain was "more like working in a cathedral", he explained. "There was more of a reverence for it then."



One of Lynch's murals on the restaurant wall



## October 2007 Flutterings You Need to Know

In honor of this being Alaska Day, Michael Orelove kicked off the meeting with a rousing rendition of “Alaska’s Flag,” perhaps the only anthem to a state flag. Michael may not be ready for “American Idol” yet, but his enthusiasm for his recent home state set the tone for the meeting. He then showed us the results from a study he had done comparing the generally manufactured sizes of United States Flags and the official sizes according to the executive order of 1912. Michael had 2’x3’, 3’x5’, 4’x6’ and 5’x8’ flags with an additional piece of white cloth sewn on the flies to bring them to the 10:19 ratio. Included in these was a miniature of the Fort McHenry Stars and Stripes showing what is left compared to the original size. He also



Orelove showing how much of the Fort McHenry Flag is left.

showed us a book he recently acquired, *A Grand Old Flag—A History of the United States Through its Flags*, by Kevin & Peter Klein, DK Publishing (2007), \$30. Mike Hale said that he has some on order for sale in his store.



Scott Mainwaring, Fred Paltridge, Ted Kaye, Mike Hale and Michael Orelove showing that the 4’x6’ commercial flag should be 7’ 7.2” long

Mike Hale had received a complimentary copy of *The New American* magazine. On the cover was a picture of a crowd of people appearing to salute a flag comprised of the flags of the United States, Canada and Mexico. (See article on page 1.) It was a lead-in to an article opposing the North American Union. The picture showed everyone (civilians) with their right hands over their hearts. In the spirit of inquiry, some of us wondered how other countries’ civilians saluted their flags. Mike said that in Mexico the right hand is placed on the left shoulder. Does anyone know how it’s done elsewhere?

Since our last meeting, Ted Kaye had been to ICV22 in Berlin and to NAVA 41 in Hartford, so he had much to tell and many flags to show. He announced that *Raven* was at the printer and passed around a draft copy. This issue deals with, among other topics, the history of the flag as

fashion. Coincidentally, Scott had recently received two copies of a book, *Wig Wag—The Flags of Fashion*, by Alessandra Vaccati, Fondazione Pitti Discovery (2005), so he gave Ted one to share with Dr. Laura Kidd who wrote the article for *Raven* entitled, “Wave It or Wear It? The United States Flag as a Fashion Icon.” Besides the usual memorabilia one acquires at a convention (including the ICV22 Flag), Ted showed us about twenty flags he picked up in Germany and the surrounding countries. Of course he had the flags of Germany (with and without the eagle), Berlin and Brandenburg, but also there were



Brandenburg

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## October Flutterings

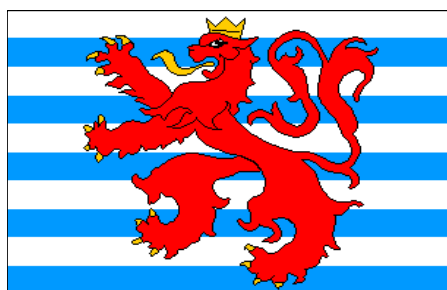
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flags from several länders he passed through on the “Grand Tour”:



Saxony

Saxony, Thuringia, Bavaria (also a hanging banner), Rhineland-Pfalz and Saarland. The cities of Görlitz, Munich and Silesia were included before he went to some other countries.



Luxembourg Ensign

Luxembourg was handy (where he got an ensign) and Liechtenstein couldn't be bypassed on the way to Austria (with and without the eagle), Vienna (state) and on to the Czech Republic! There were also two touristy flags: one made up of all the flags of the European Union and one made up of all the German länders.

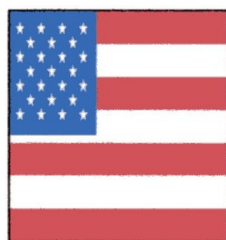
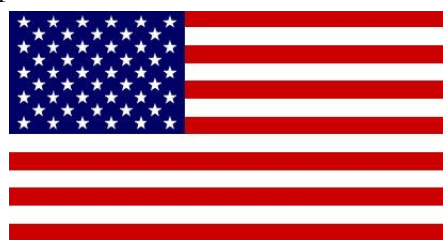
Since it was his house, Scott was able to use his computer and large TV for his “Show and Tell.” He had a slide show of the Albuquerque Hot Air Balloon Festival where many of the balloons were decorated with huge flags of all nations. One was even shaped and designed like the U.S.

flag. Also from New Mexico, Scott had an image of the first unofficial state flag—a far cry from the one that placed first in the NAVA survey! Since at the time New Mexico did not have a flag, so for the 1915 San Diego World's Fair, this one was quickly put together.

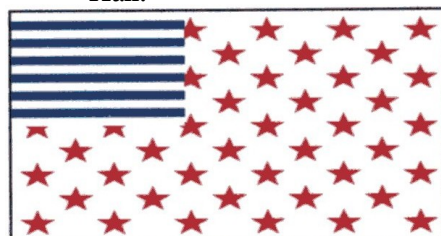


First New Mexican flag of 1915

Scott has also become interested in morphing flags. He is playing with a genetic algorithm based approach. There is a site that morphs some flags and is really amazing: <http://www.flag-metamorphoses.net>. He presented some designs of straight linear changes to the U.S. Flag such as : What is half, or twice, or the opposite of this?



Half?



Opposite?



Twice?

John brought everyone up to date on articles in the various vexillological newsletters he receives, including a piece in *Flagmaster* from The Flag Institute in England. It told of the confusion of when the national flag was actually allowed to be flown. This article brought to mind stories of how other countries treated the flying of their flags; e.g., the flag of Bahrain cannot be flown anywhere without the explicit permission of their government; numerous Scandinavian homes fly wimples since they do not have to be illuminated at night. You see that we go off on tangents rather quickly! John also had a picture he had taken while in Ketchikan, Alaska recently. It looks remarkably like a flag that Michael Orelove showed one time, but this one was on the roof of a store next to where the cruise ship was docked.



There was also some discussion about the proposals for a PFA flag. It was decided to wait until we heard from some other members, and to hear what Doug Lynch might recommend.





## Flags in the News

With all the political unrest (even outside of this country), there were a lot of flags in the news. Myanmar (Burma) was leading the pack with people throughout the world marching with various flags.



The ubiquitous Buddhist flag



Protesting in Kuala Lumpur with a Zo Flag (Chin State) of Myanmar



South Koreans protesting with pre-1974 Burma flag



UK students in solidarity with Burma

Many other people were also making their voices heard around the world:



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women march with the Kurdish flag as thousands pack the streets of Zakho about 300 miles northwest of Baghdad on Saturday to protest a threatened Turkish incursion and to warn they will defend their territory. Turkey has threatened to cross the Iraqi border to try to wipe out Kurdish rebel bases, arguing it has the right to fight terrorism.



IBRAHIM USTA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Members of the left-wing Workers' Party protest Thursday in Istanbul against the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee passing a bill describing World War I-era killings of Armenians as genocide.

*Why can't we all just get along?*

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## What Was that Flag? Answers to last quiz

These flags certainly are similar, and since they all come from the same part of the world, they are very confusing. These African flags all use the Ethiopian colors that date back to the nineteenth century and are patterned after the French *Tricolore*. Although the colors are the same, their meanings differ somewhat among the countries. Red usually symbolizes blood or bravery, green the vegetation and agriculture and the yellow the sun or minerals.



Cameroon

Cameroon's first flag as a French colony did not have the star. The star now represents unity of the French colony and the British colony.



Guinea

The first French colony to achieve independence, Guinea used the colors of Ghana to show the solidarity with African unity.

Mali and Senegal were a federation shortly before they gained complete independence from France. The flag then had a black *kanaga*, a stylized human figure. After Senegal seceded, the *kanaga* was dropped because Muslim purists objected to the repre-

sentation of the human form.



Mali



Senegal

With the secession from the Mali Federation, Senegal kept the same flag but added a green star symbolizing unity and hope.

These flags only represent the vertical tribars with the Ethiopian colors. There are horizontal tribars, vertical at the hoist and horizontal in the fly, triangle at the hoist. Then there are the flags with the Marcus Garvey colors of black, red and green and combinations of all four colors. I'm sure that Scott, with his study of the morphing of flags, could do justice to the genealogy of African flags. Or maybe Michael Faul will do something since he spent so many years in Africa and is certainly qualified to comment.



Marcus Garvey Flag of 1917

## What's that Flag?

With the Buddhist flag in the news so often at the protests in Myanmar, I thought of flags of other religions that haven't been in the public eye:



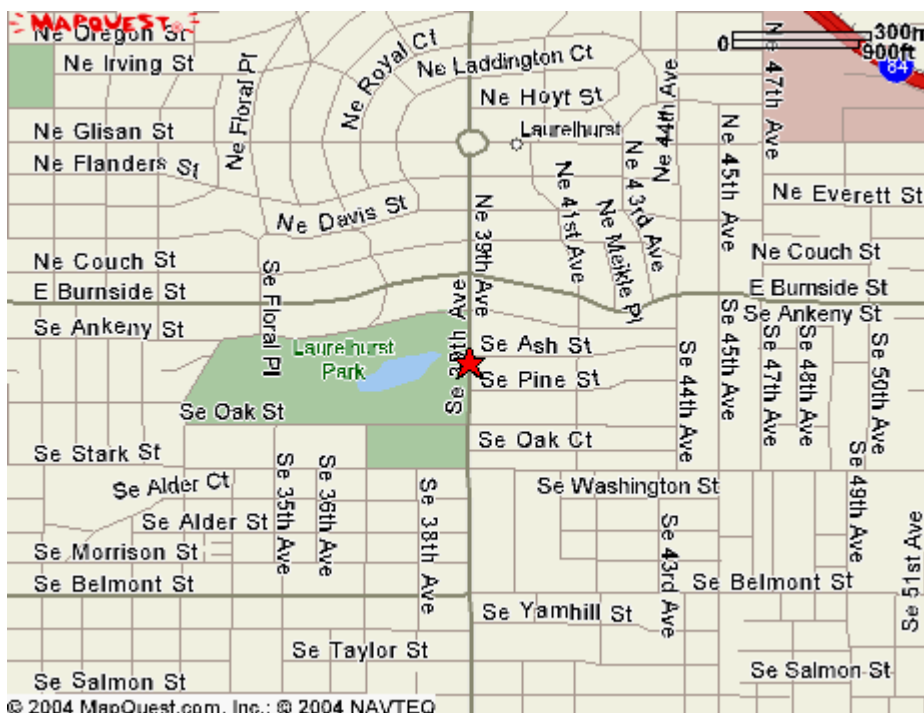
## January Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, January 10, 2008, at John Hood's house, 208 SE 39th Ave., telephone (503) 238-7666. See the map below. We're back on schedule again.

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.

Hopefully we will settle on a flag for our group and be waving it at the April meeting. 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

(Continued from page 5)



OLIVIA BUCKS/THE OREGONIAN

**Jason Ross (left) and Mike Chapman install an old fire hydrant in Hillsboro's Hondo Dog Park earlier this month before the park opened. Ross painted the hydrant with the American flag in honor of fallen Hillsboro police dog Hondo. He's upset the flag-themed hydrant has been pulled after some people complained the flag could be desecrated by dogs urinating on it.**

Subsequent to this piece, a wrought-iron fence was put up around the hydrant to satisfy the purists. Our discussion at the meeting had a consensus that this was not desecration

drant for the dog and the colors of the flag for his service.

## 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>