

The Vexilloid Tabloid

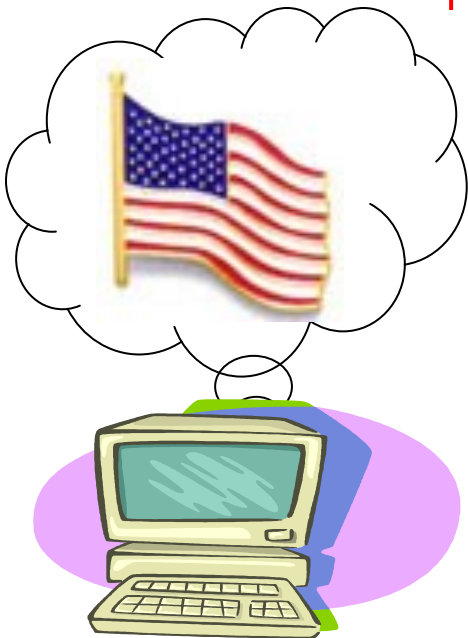
Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 17 April 2008

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If the flag needs protection at all, it needs it from members of Congress who value the symbol more than the freedoms that the flag represents.
—Rep. Jerrold Nadler, 2005

GOOGLE-MANIA: Following the Yellow Brick Road from Pulaski and Plagues to Hillary and NAFTA

By Marshall Goldberg

IN THE LAND OF OZ

Following the April PFA meeting, I pursued my interest in Count Pulaski's Revolutionary War Banner, devised to represent his independent cavalry legion. Googling the Maryland Historical Society—repository of the original banner made by the Moravian women of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania—led to a discursive ride through history, sports, politics and botany.



Count Pulaski's Banner

Reviewing the Historical Society

Publications—Current Titles—revealed a Civil War journal of a Maryland pharmacist turned ship's surgeon, **YELLOW FLAG**, by Steward C. Marion. The yellow jack was a quarantine flag flown from ships (and at times from port entries) indicating the presence of yellow fever.



Lima signal flag



Quebec signal flag

Editor's note: Currently the Lima flag is used within the harbor to indicate quarantine and the Quebec flag is used to request pratique (license proving good health).

This jack also figures in an 1872 detective novel, **THE YELLOW FLAG**, by Edmund Hudson Yates and a 1939 movie, **YELLOW JACK**, directed by Georg B. Seitz. In fact, yellow fever was also known as “yellow jack” because of the warning flag. Historical reference persists in the yellow jack flag of a football team—**Team Yellow Fever**, a coed flag football league

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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.

Google-Mania

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of Arlington, Virginia.



Team Yellow Fever

Other digressions via search engines will lead the unwary to the “Yellow Flag Iris” (a flower), the “Yellow Flag (Bus) Line” in Bangkok, Thailand, and the three yellow flag warning signals used by NAS-CAR.



Caution

Debris
on Road

Restart
Race

Returning to healthcare, “Yellow Flag” is defined in the journal, *DYNAMIC CHIROPRACTIC* (11/30/02 -Vol. 20, Issue 25), as “Risk factors associated with chronic pain or disability.” Included is a yellow flag scoring questionnaire.

Yellow flags of political correctness occur across the political spectrum. Bruno V. Manno waves a flag of caution in his article, *YELLOW FLAG—A FORUM ON CHARTER SCHOOLS (EDUCATION NEXT, Winter 2003, Vol. 3, Number 1)*. Hillary Clinton (not to be left behind her spouse’s efforts) “...raised

a big yellow flag of caution (against) NAFTA” (NYT 4/1/08), according to her own statement. However, she was known to have held numerous meetings in 1993 in support of NAFTA.

In conclusion, beware of blind trust in search engines for relevancy and good sense in pursuit of vexillological knowledge. Following the yellow brick road—



whether to Oz



or through Sophia, Bulgaria

will not necessarily yield enlightenment.

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>

Flutterings

(Continued from page 4)

Scott was once more out of the country but he did submit some flags he has been doodling with; see his article on page 8.

Marshall will be spending more of his time in Los Altos, CA with his daughter so he brought a small Los Altos flag, but we didn’t get a picture of it. Next time I’ll have my camera ready!

John had no new flags, but he did provide an update from the various publications he receives. *eFlags*, the virtual flag magazine from the Flag Institute is a new approach to getting the word out. And leave it to a librarian to create *An American Abecedary of Flags* as Kevin Harrington did in his latest *Flagcan*.

Michael Orelove was in Alaska but he did send in a packet of goods. He maintains 20 year time capsules and this year opened 1988. The 1988 calendar he forwarded, coincidentally, had the flags, flowers and emblems of Canada. He also sent colored paper so we could design a flag for the PFA—maybe next time.

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>

World Flag Update

By John Carroll

The World Flag is on the move! The flag flies at schools, places of worship, from businesses and from people's homes throughout the world. Here is a short list of some of the places The World Flag has recently been flying in the last few months: Australia, Germany, Nepal, India, Argentina, Canada, Norway, Costa Rica, Israel, Antarctica, Italy, England, Nova Scotia and throughout the United States. Here are a couple of stories about The World Flag being used in the U.S.

World Flag Ambassador Sarah Griggs gave as a gift The World Flag to Ms. Taylor's first grade classroom at Scott Montgomery Elementary school in Washington, D.C. Ms. Taylor is an educator in Teach for America.



Over the last year, Scott Montgomery Elementary has experienced external gang activity on and around the school property, including graffiti on school buildings, drug dealing, as well as the stashing of firearms on the grounds. While the school has taken measures to ensure the safety of students, these children still face many challenges outside the protection of the school's walls. The World Flag's

message of peace and unity could not have come to a better place.

After unveiling The World Flag, students learned about the history of the U.S. Flag, identified flags of the world, and named the seven continents.



The students created their own countries, and designed flags to represent their imaginary lands. The World Flag Project culminated in students describing the national language, food, animal, and geography of their country. They even created a national dance, which they demonstrated to the rest of the class.

The World Flag is also part of daily life by one of Portland, Oregon's

best schools. The Franciscan Montessori Earth School at 14750 SE Clinton St. is led by Mother Francine and the Franciscan Sisters of The Eucharist. At this school the kids have a 5x8 foot flag raised from their flag pole each day to remind them that we all share this amazing planet together, and each of the 300 students have been given a flashcard by The world Flag Project used to learn about the countries, places and people of the world. The kids go one step further and learn about geography, the environment and relationships that the countries are dealing with.

As The World Flags message of "Teaching Unity-Sharing Diversity" spans the Globe, more people begin to understand the positive impact The World Flag is having on individuals and communities.

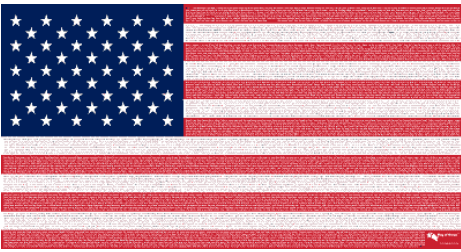
For further information and updates, go to: <http://www.theworldflag.org>



April 2008 Flutterings You Need to Know

John Carroll told us of the progress of The World Flag (see his article on page 3). He said that the colors for the flag have not been satisfactory and that they are trying to resolve the problem.

It was good to see Ken Dale who has been marked absent recently. A friend of his, who was unable to come, provided him with a "Flag of Honor" for "show and tell." It is a standard U.S. Flag, but with the names of each victim of the 9/11 tragedy printed on the stripes. A rather powerful statement from The Tribute to Honor Organization.

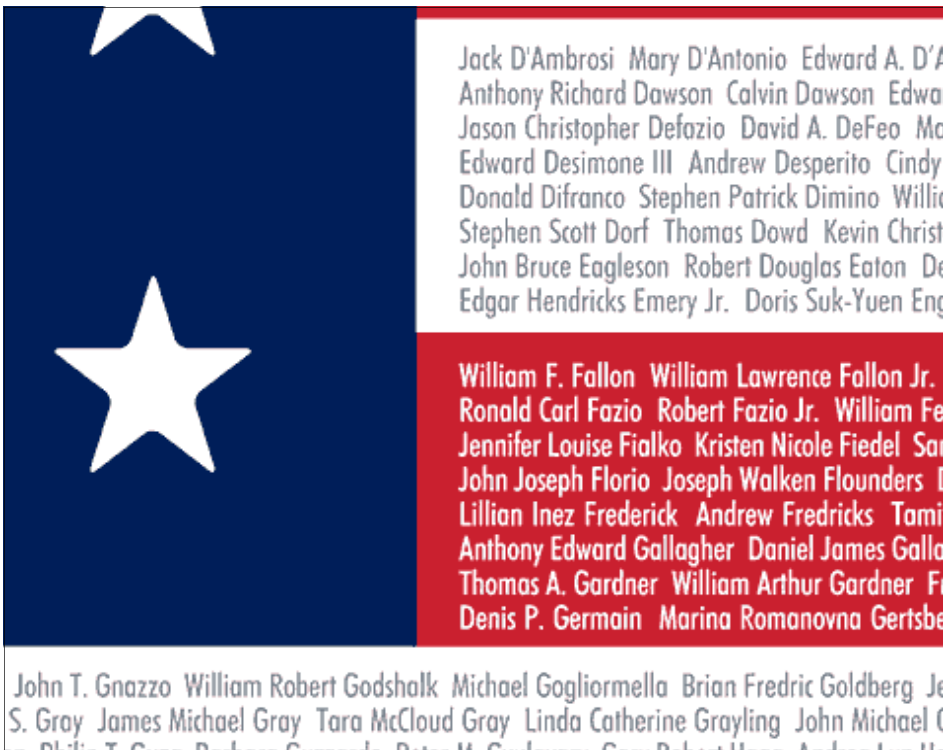


Flag of Honor

At the last meeting, Ted had wondered what the U.S. Flag would look like with the stars replaced by the state flags, since most are white seals on blue backgrounds. The editor cobbled together a few arrangements and here is the one that showed this phenomenon the best:



State Flags in Canton by Order of Admission



Detail of Flag of Honor

Ted, via NAVA, received a letter and pictures of a flag purporting to be from the German battleship "Bismarck" that was sunk in 1941. The person wanted to know what to do with it, perhaps sell it at auction. Ted had discussions with several experts within NAVA and the conclusion was that this is not as

first thought. Because of the size, the lack of battle distress and various markings, it probably was from an auxiliary boat or perhaps a personal flag. None the less, it was an interesting puzzle.

Mike showed off his Franklin Mint striking of 64 sterling silver ingots of the flags of the American Revolution. Elmer, Mike's step-father, got them in 1975—all at once—he couldn't wait for one a month! No one realized that there were that many different flags from that period and the presentation case shows them beautifully.

(Continued on page 2)

The Seasons

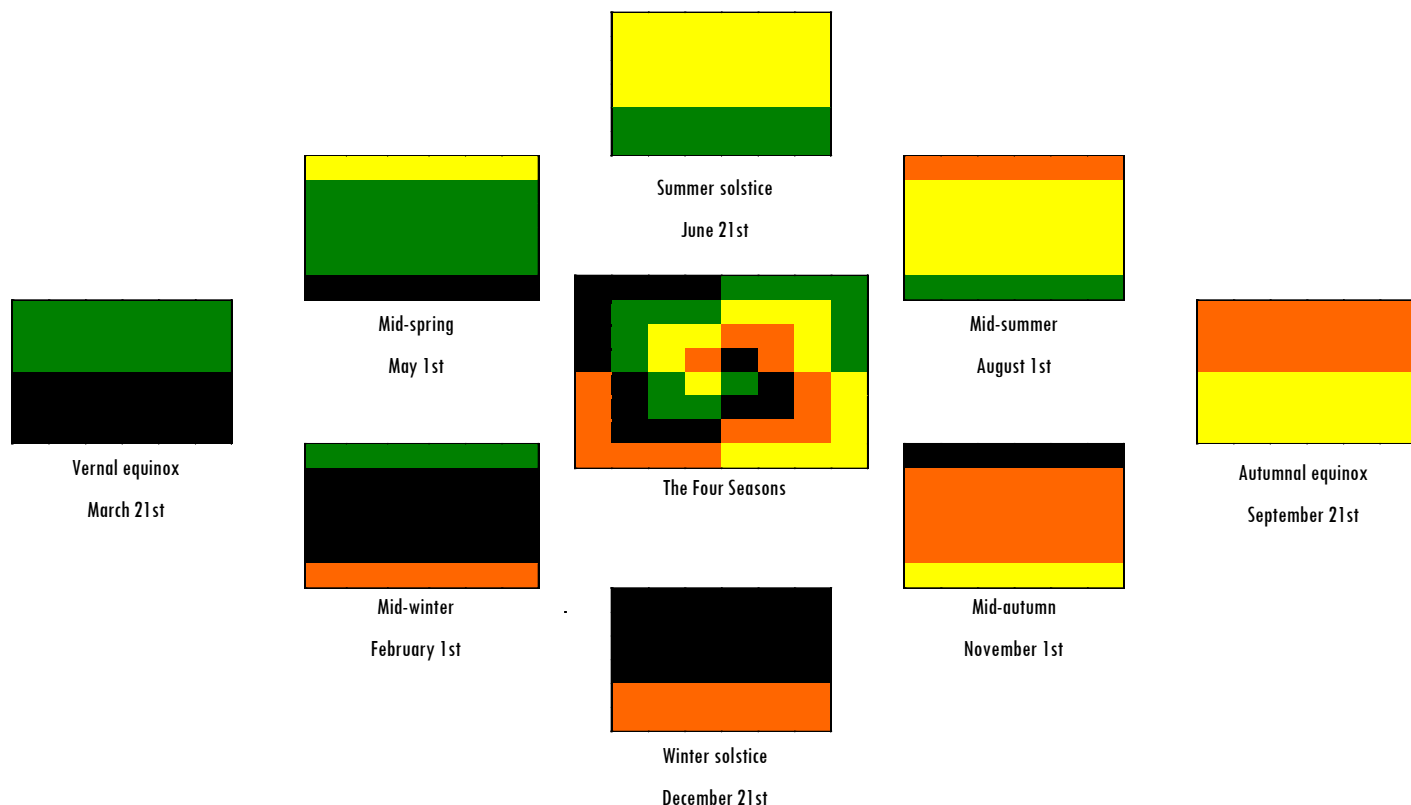
By Scott Mainwaring

Not to be confused with the works of Vivaldi!—The editor.

Here are some flag designs I've been playing with, thinking about the seasons. The first grouping shows nine flags, based on the sea-

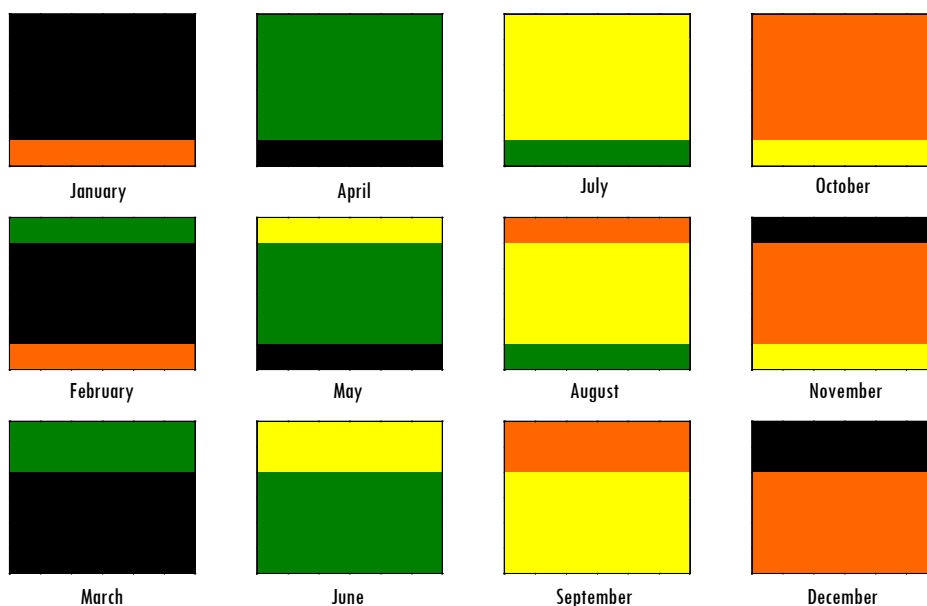
sons of the year. The symbolism is black = winter, green = spring, yellow = summer, orange = fall. Rather than have a flag for each season, I have eight flags to mark special days: the equinoxes (= equal horizontal bicolours in my scheme), and solstices (= unequal horizontal bicolours) that everyone

is familiar with as the first day of each season—but also there are four mid-season days which correspond to Groundhog Day (midwinter), May Day (mid-spring), midsummer, and Halloween/All Saints (mid-autumn). Plus a too-busy "bonus flag" to represent "the cycle of the seasons" as a sort of spiral.



The second grouping has some ideas for flags for each month, based on the same color symbolism. I think they rotate around the opposite direction as those on the first flag; sorry about that! I'm not so satisfied with these.

If anyone knows of other attempts to make seasonal or month-related flags, I'd be very interested. I hope everyone finds these amusing, and please pass on my regrets for once again having to be out of town.



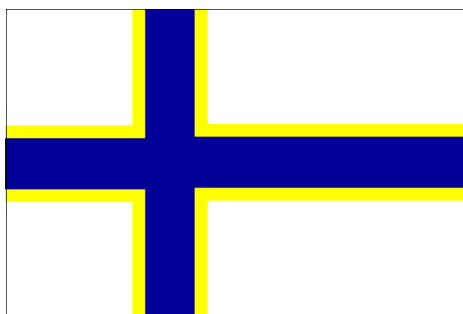
What Was that Flag? Answers to last quiz

Did you realize that there are approximately 137 flags with some form of the Scandinavian Cross? “Approximately,” because several are not official and have multiple versions. Interestingly enough, most of them are from cities, towns and municipalities in The Netherlands.



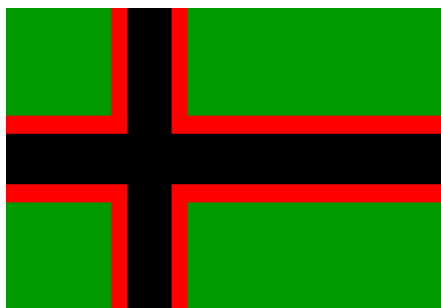
Åland Islands, Finland

The Åland Islands are a Finnish autonomous province in the Baltic Sea, but the population is predominantly Swedish, thus the Swedish colors. The ferry from Turku to Stockholm makes a brief stop there.



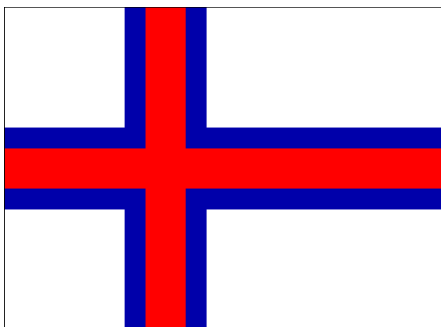
Bayamón, Puerto Rico

The second most populous city in Puerto Rico, Bayamón is famous for its fried pork rinds. I have no idea why a Scandinavian Cross is in the Caribbean. This is the same design that was proposed for East Karelia in 1930, but never adopted.



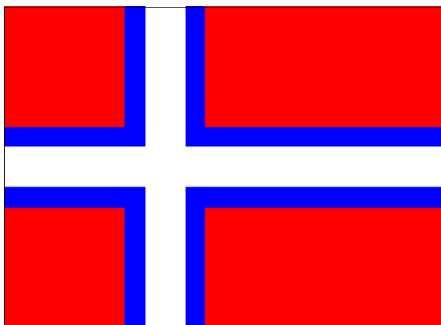
East Karelia, Russia

Karelia is the western area of Russia, next to Finland. In 1920 a flag, presumably like this, was designed. Currently it is used as an ethnic flag, but apparently has no official status.



Faroe Islands, Denmark

The Faroe Islands are situated about halfway between Norway and Iceland and are a self-governing community within the Kingdom of Denmark.



Vestlandet, Norway

Vestlandet is the western part of Norway, but Jan Oskar Engene, a vexillologist in Bergen, has never seen this flag flown!

What's that Flag?

We all recognize the common international organizations' flags, but what about some of these that are less known?



