



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

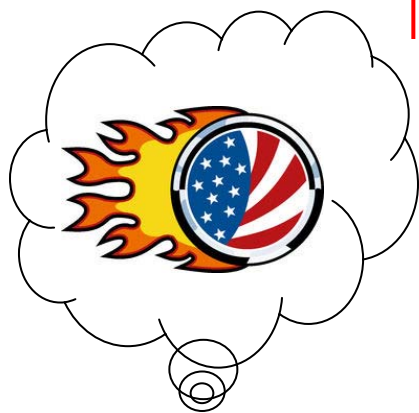
“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 62 February 2017

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www.portlandflag.org



I prefer someone who burns the flag and then wraps himself up in the Constitution over someone who burns the Constitution and then wraps himself up in the flag.

—Molly Ivins

The Origin of the PFA

By Ted Kaye

Recently I was delighted to find what may be the seminal document of the PFA.

Our official history (see *VT* #49 and the PFA website) begins with an organizing meeting held during NAVA 28 in Portland in October 1994. Harry Oswald had convened a meeting of people interested in creating a Cascadia Region flag group, under NAVA and the Canadian Flag Association. That group, after one quarterly meeting in Seattle in April, 1995, quickly contracted to the Portland-only entity which eventually named itself the Portland Flag Association.

However, the origin of the PFA goes back further. Seeking some information to help Kin Spain with his research about the NAVA 28 flag, I just examined the paper files of the late Don Klett, one of NAVA 28's organizers and a founder of the PFA. (His materials came to me from his widow, Ginny, after his death in 2000.)

I was surprised to find a note from me dated May 1991, listing five “NAVA Members or Flag Enthusiasts in the Portland Area”.

It read, “Don—we may have the makings of a Portland Chapter. Do you feel like organizing one?” At that time Don was on NAVA's Membership Committee.

Don, Harry, and I were among those five, and we soon got together to propose holding a NAVA meeting. Harry took the lead, and recruited others to the organizing committee, including John Hood.

This appears to push the origin of the PFA back more than 25 years to that note to Don Klett. At the most recent PFA meeting, we passed that note around. Members of a group that has now grown to over 40 participants got to see what started it all.

We now follow in the footsteps of Don Klett, Harry Oswald, and John Hood, three generous leaders who hosted the PFA meetings for years before it had even adopted that name. Here's to 25 more years of local flag enthusiasm!

The *Vexilloid Tabloid* now sports an ISSN! The U.S. **International Standard Serial Number** Center at the Library of Congress assigned the number in September 2016.

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

January 2017 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our January meeting, hosted by Jessie Spillers and delayed two weeks because of the snow, 11 PFA members enjoyed a lively 3-hour evening of flags. In the usual role of the host, Jessie moderated the discussion.

He started us off with an entertaining YouTube video: “25 Astounding Things You Never Knew About Flags”.



Affable host Jessie Spillers moderates the meeting.



Fred Paltridge wears yellow to celebrate January. He declaims before David Ferriday’s flag folk art.

Fred Paltridge expanded on his thinking on identical national flags, and how Monaco might differ from Indonesia—perhaps with a red and white lozenge design.



Artist and architect David Ferriday has a keen eye for flag-related art.

David Ferriday brought folk art featuring flags and showed an image of a U.S. flag made from baseballs displayed at the Red Robin restaurant on N.E. Grand.

Max Liberman displayed the flag of the mythical Kingdom of Æfira, (see *VT* #31) honoring the sovereign’s/his 11 January birthday, and showed the nautical signal flags for Esperanto letters with diacritics.



Scott Mainwaring stumps the crowd with a Labrador flag—Fred Paltridge looks on as Max Liberman takes his usual copious notes.



Max Liberman displays the nautical signal flags for the Esperanto letters Ĉ Ĝ Ĥ Ĵ Ŝ Ŭ. All use green, an Esperanto color, not otherwise used in signal flags. <http://lingvo.org/flagoj>



Second Life, an online virtual world, intrigues David Koski with the opportunity to find flags.

David Koski described his recent explorations in the online virtual world Second Life, and the flags he occasionally finds there.

Ted Kaye brought a number of items. He shared clippings from the *Wall Street Journal*, cartoons from Phil Allen, articles from the *Economist* and the *American Legion*, and the suite of personal flags he'd designed for his family. He also told of the NWGSD flag he'd helped get manufactured (see p. 5).

We welcomed Liam Dubay, a new member, who debuted the flag he'd designed for his robotics team at Grant High School. A senior there, Liam's flag replaced a simple name-on-a-banner design.



Ted Kaye shows a clipping of the flag used by local activist group NWGSD.



Michael Orelove displays his flag combining Oregon and California elements.

Michael Orelove and Kathleen Forrest shared a California-Oregon combo flag (see p. 5).

Scott Mainwaring described the flag of the African kingdom of "Wakanda" in the *Black Panther* graphic novel series, and unfolded his flag for Pluto, an alternative flag for Earth (see p. 6), and Labrador's popular but unofficial flag.

Patrick Genna talked about immigration and immigrants, including his Sicilian grandmother, and unfurled a flag for her. He brought a very worn U.S. flag for respectful disposal by Michael.



Liam Dubay's flag for the Grant High School robotics team combines school colors (blue & gray), a gear for machinery, and 4 stars for General Grant.

Our next meeting will be at the home of Patrick Genna on March 9. He promises to give away a large number of flags acquired at Goodwill.

Patrick took the Portland Flag Association flag home with him—the customary task of the next host.



Patrick Genna honors his Sicilian grandmother.

Book Review:

50 Facts You May Not Know About the Confederate Flag

By Ted Kaye

Save your money. This book is a disappointment.

Its blurb begins with “This book is comprised [sic] entirely of facts. No opinion is rendered.”

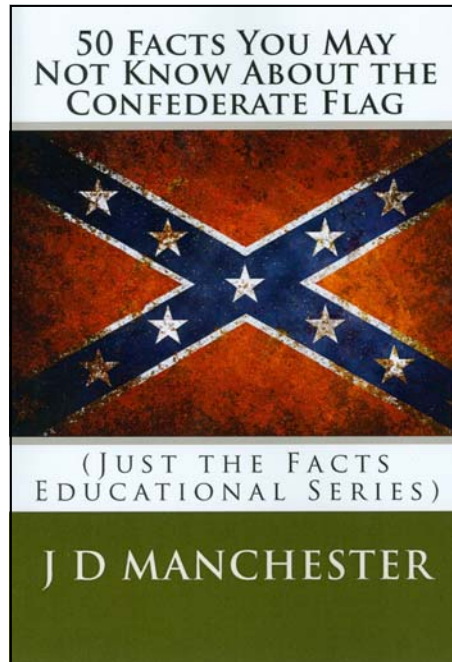
I bought it, intrigued by its possible socio-political agenda. It is in the “Just for Facts Educational Series”, which also has subjects such as the executive branch, Black Confederate soldiers, slavery, and Donald Trump.

Instead of a screed, I found a skimpy pamphlet describing the basics about the Confederacy’s flags. Yes, it was indeed all facts and no opinion, but really just a short essay stretched into 50 one- and sometimes two-sentence items on 26 pages.

The illustrations all appear in gray-scale—ludicrous for a flag book. They are accurate as far as they go, but laughably omit outlines, so the flags with white fields disappear onto the page—a real problem with the 2nd and 3rd Nat’l Flags!

The writing is replete with typos and the layout is juvenile. The first chapters are labeled “Facts 1–10 and Facts 12–20”. Basic proofreading, please!

I’m not sure what the book tries to accomplish, except to get readers’ money. It may have had a



“heritage not hate” intent, but without any analysis or interpretation, it falls short of anything but recounting facts.

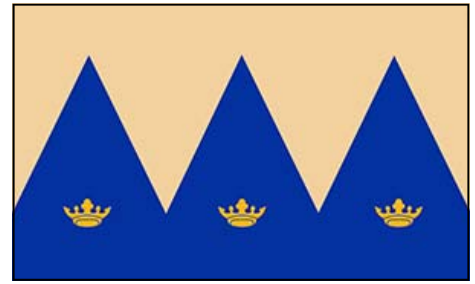
Its final “fact” describes the 2015 Charleston shootings and the resulting removal of the Confederate Battle Flag from the South Carolina state house grounds (see *VT* #61). Indeed, it appears to have been produced hastily immediately after those events.

Apparently the booklet now has a sequel, with 50 more facts. Don’t bother.

ISBN-13: 978-1515099222

26 pages. Black & white illustrations. \$7.99 July 15, 2015

J. D. Manchester, author;
William Barclay Masterson, ed.



NAVA 51

Make your plans now to attend the 51st annual meeting of the North American Vexillological Association, October 13–15 in Boston, Massachusetts.

This will be the third time NAVA has met in Boston, and the meeting will include a special tribute to the organizer of modern vexillology, Boston-area native Whitney Smith.

See www.nava.org for more info.



ICV 27

Make your plans now to attend the 27th International Congress of Vexillology, 7–11 August in London, England. Max Liberman will be the PFA’s delegate to the general assembly of FIAV, the International Federation of Vexillological Associations.

The Flag Institute, organizer of this ICV, also hosted the ICVs in York (2001), Oxford (1983), and London (1973).

See www.icv27.co.uk for more info. Early registration ends 28 February.

Roundup



For the past year Michael Orelove has been sending a 12 x 18-inch state flag to Kathleen Forrest's granddaughters each week, calling it the "Flag of the Week Club". They now have all 50 state flags and sent Michael a photo of them with the flags. From left: Kathryn, Margaret, and Amelia Forrest.



THE BEAVER RIDES THE BEAR

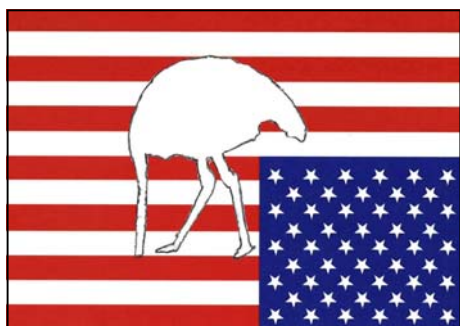
Michael Orelove continues his innovative re-imaginings of flags.

His niece and her family came from Culver City California to the Portland area to visit for the holidays. In honor of their visit he modified the California flag with the beaver from an old Oregon flag.

L to R: Ajae, Milo, and Jess.



Scott Mainwaring took his sons to the Women's March on 21 January and decided they'd carry (wear) flags instead of signs. Here are Henry with the Adbusters anti-oligarchy flag and Nathaniel with "New Glory" celebrating American diversity.



Ostrich Society of America 2016–2021. A flag proposed by Portland architect Jay Shoemaker.



Concerned Portland women formed the group "Nasty Women Get Stuff Done" shortly after the November election, a reference to then-candidate Donald Trump's calling Hillary Clinton a "nasty woman" during the final presidential debate. ("Stuff" is a bowdlerized version of a more coarse word.)

The group has created a sign in the form of the U.S. flag, illustrated with a variety of social values that members advocate. It is selling the 14" x 22" sign, 11"x17" posters, 3' x 5' flags, and 3"x4" stickers, promoting them on Facebook. PSU biologist Jason Maxfield originated the sign concept, originally in rainbow colors.

The sign is shown here, held by Rita King at the Portland Women March Against Hate on 3 December, in an image by Allan Brettman of *The Oregonian*.

Alternative Flags for Earth

In 2015, the online magazine WIRED UK compiled flags for Earth, “designed by visionaries and hippies”. Writer Katie Collins was inspired by the Oskar Pernefeldt “International Flag of Planet Earth”, and gathered several others.

Wikipedia also has an article on “Flag of the Earth”, with more such flags.

Thanks to PFA members John Carroll of the World Flag for bringing these to our attention and Scott Mainwaring for showing us his full-size Pernefeldt flag.



An obvious “Earth Flag” using the planet’s astronomical symbol, by multiple independent designers.



The “World Peace Flag of Earth”, designed by Ohio minister James William van Kirk in 1913 and adopted by the Universal Peace Congress.

Sources:

<http://www.wired.co.uk/article/alternative-world-flags>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Earth



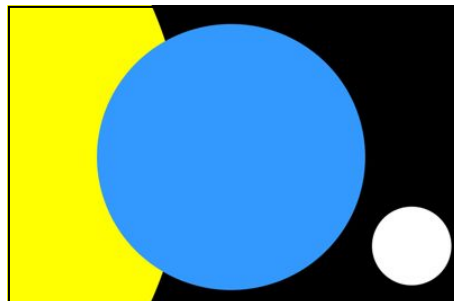
The United Nations flag (1945), arguably representing Earth, developed by a committee based on a design by U.S. architect Donal McLaughlin.



The “World Citizen” flag of the World Service Authority, designed in 1953 by founder Garry Davis.



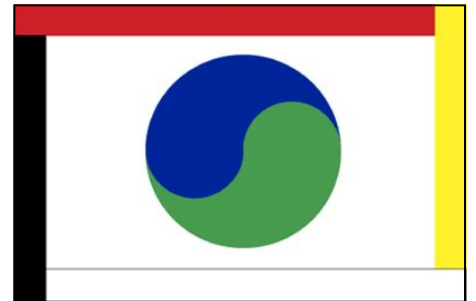
The “Earth Day Flag”, designed by John McConnell in 1969 based on a NASA photo, later updated to the famous 1972 “Blue Marble” image.



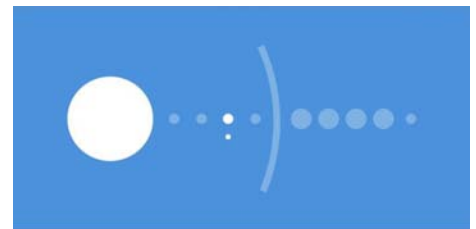
The “Flag of the Earth”, by Illinois farmer James W. Cadle in 1970, showing the Sun, Earth, and Moon, and favored by SETI researchers.



The “World Flag”, designed by Paul Carroll in New York in 1988, combining 216 individual flags and updated multiple times since.



The “One World Flag”, which came to designer David Bartholomew in a dream in 1996.



“Earth’s Flag” designed by Redditor “thefrek” in 2012 and shared on reddit.com along with a gallery of flags for all the planets.



The “International Flag of Planet Earth”, by Oskar Pernefeldt of the Beckmans College of Design in Stockholm, Sweden, in 2015.

Update on Milwaukee, Wisconsin's Proposed Flag

Here in Portland we must specify “Milwaukee, Wisconsin” because otherwise folks might think we’re referring to our neighboring city—Milwaukie, Oregon. (The spelling difference reflects mid-1800s inconsistencies...our neighbor was in fact named for the Wisconsin city.)

Steve Kodis, the designer behind the effort to replace the Milwaukee flag, has sent an update. In 2016 he successfully concluded an extensive flag-design contest (over 2,000 entries) which delivered five finalist designs for public vote. Although the winner, “Sunrise Over the Lake”, has yet to be officially adopted, an alderman has agreed to sponsor a bill to bring it to the Common Council.

Meanwhile, Steve and the flag’s designer, Robert Lenz, are busy promoting what they call “The People’s Flag of Milwaukee”, reporting that “people have really been adopting the new flag as a symbol.” Apparently most people now call it the “new Milwaukee flag”. Steve sent us these images.



The Design Program at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (alma mater of Steve Kodis) proudly displays the flag.



Karl Ratzsch, a classic German restaurant in downtown Milwaukee, organically purchased the new flag to accompany the U.S., German, and Wisconsin flags on its building.



Steve Kodis has emblazoned his Subaru with a nice custom sticker.



The city asked for a special flag ornament to adorn the Christmas tree in front of City Hall.



A climbing enthusiast went out of his way to have a custom fall pad stitched up with the flag image.



The symbol has made its way to Sydney, Australia, as a t-shirt.

Proponents now have an on-line store selling flags, pins, stickers, apparel, and accessories.

For the store and much more on the Milwaukee flag effort, visit:

- milwaukeeflag.com
- [instagram.com/mkeflag](https://www.instagram.com/mkeflag)

Does the Deep Sea Need a Flag?

By Carlos Alberto Morales Ramirez

As a vexillologist and a geographer, I am fascinated by the intersection of flags and geography. With over 70% of the earth's surface covered by oceans, that's a lot of territory to represent—even just the surface. And the deep sea is not only the least-explored region, but the least-flagged as well.

The National Geographic Society's flag has to be one of the most "well-traveled" flags out there. It is flown in most of the organization's research and explorations, even reaching Earth's poles and being held by a chimpanzee (see dozens of images at https://www.pinterest.com/t_prof/pel-national-geo-society-photos/). It is also one of the few flags to have gone into outer space.

Explorers are not afraid to get it wet either! The flag has been displayed in underwater expeditions many times. Other flags underwater include the Singapore flag at one of the events during the country's 50-year independence celebration in 2015, the Russian



Figure 1.
Flag of the National Geographic Society (1903). The colors represent sky, earth, and sea.



Figure 2.
James Cameron holding the NGS flag after his mission to the Mariana Trench in 2012.

flag beneath the sea in the North Pole, and even the West Papua (Indonesia) flag in the seas off Vanuatu.

In 2012, James Cameron, the renowned director of box office successes such as *Titanic* and *Avatar*, completed his deep-sea dive into the Mariana Trench, east of the Mariana Islands in the Pacific. He reached the bottom of the trench at almost 11 km (nearly 7 mi.). He was photographed holding the NGS flag after one of his expeditions although it is not clear if he actually took the flag with him to his expedition.

It would be interesting to know if this flag or any other flag has reached the deepest and darkest part of the ocean...I know of none.



Figure 3.
Proposed "Flag of the World Ocean" (2012) (Julius C).

Many ocean flag designs exist. In just one example, a Julius C has proposed a "Flag of the World Ocean", with wavy blue and white asymmetric stripes.

But if the deep sea were to have its own flag, what elements should be used for its design? With so little known about this place on Earth, what would be the symbolism behind it? Is a flag for the deep sea even necessary? Instead of having its own flag, should we consider using a country's flag for deep-sea locations? This could create conflict, since some deep-sea locations lie between more than one country. For the Mariana Trench, should one use the flag of the Northern Mariana Islands or Guam—or that of the United States, since these are U.S. possessions?

The deep sea is the area of the ocean where the light starts to fade, approximately 200 meters below the surface. The vexillology blog spot "The Voice of Vexillology, Flags & Heraldry" (see <http://zebratigerfish.blogspot.com/>) provides a possible flag for the deep sea. The flag design is for the entire deep sea, for the economic zone unclaimed by nations.

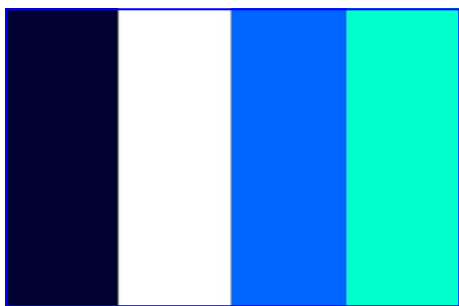


Figure 4.
Proposed flag of the deep-sea international waters (Christopher Maddish).

The flag has four vertical stripes and uses a palette of cold colors: blue, navy blue, indigo, and white. It doesn't provide more information about the symbolism.

“zebratigerfish” is the *nom de web* of Christopher Maddish, a NAVA member and active creator of flag designs. On 23 June 2016 he posted his interpretation of a flag for the Mariana Trench, the object of Cameron's expedition in 2012. The design is based on the location of the area of the trench explored by Cameron. The red, green, and orange colors of the stripes indicate the number 142 (see Figure 5), the longitude of the location, and the two red 5-pointed stars indicate the number 11, the latitude of the location. The pentagon in the center indicates the location of the trench in the Eastern Hemisphere.



Figure 5.
Proposed flag of the Mariana Trench (Christopher Maddish).



Figure 6.
Color number codes explaining the color selection of the proposed Mariana Trench flag.

These proposals spark many more questions.

If a contest called for flag designs for specific locations of the deep sea, is Maddish's design a good representation?

What other elements could we incorporate? This area is home to many endemic sea creatures. Since animals are used as symbols in flags, it is possible to include them in a flag of a deep-sea location. However, since much of the deep sea is still unexplored, would an animal on the flag be a true representation?

When it comes to colors, should we incorporate black, since there is no intrusion of light at such depth?

Since there is still research needed of the deep sea, it may be challenging to “nail down” a truly representative flag. It will be interesting to see what vexillographers come up with the current information available. Christopher Maddish's approach is definitely a good starting point!

Carlos Morales is a PhD student in Geography, currently studying at the National University of Singapore.

Figures:

1. Image from FOTW: <https://flagspot.net/flags/us-ngs.html>
2. Photo by Mark Thiessen, courtesy of the National Geographic, obtained from <http://press.nationalgeographic.com/about-national-geographic/milestones/> on 10 January 2017
3. Retrieved from [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_the_World_Ocean_\(Proposal\).PNG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_the_World_Ocean_(Proposal).PNG) on 28 January 2017

Note: an online search for “Ocean + Flag” yields a tremendous variety of existing and proposed flag designs for the ocean in general and for specific named oceans and seas in particular. These will provide vexillologists with an ample field of future study.

4. Retrieved from <http://zebratigerfish.blogspot.sg/2015/10/deep-sea-international-waters-flag.html> on 16 January 2017
5. Retrieved from <http://zebratigerfish.blogspot.com/2016/06/flag-for-challenger-deep-deepest-part.html> on 10 January 2017
6. Retrieved from <http://zebratigerfish.blogspot.com/2016/06/flag-for-challenger-deep-deepest-part.html> on 10 January 2017

William & Mary ... and St. Andrew

By David Ferriday

Some of our PFA members and friends are as interested in heraldry as they are in flags. Here is the story of a unique coat of arms.

The College of William & Mary (my alma mater) was the first American institution of higher learning with a royal coat of arms—granted 14 May 1694 by the College of Arms in London.

Since 2011 it has partnered with the University of St. Andrews in Scotland to offer a joint degree, an International Honors BA. The four-year undergraduate degree combines the best of both schools' educational experiences.

Likewise, the program's coat of arms combines each university's

heraldry and symbols to represent the shared experience of its students. It was designed by the Ormond Pursuivant of the Court of the Lord Lyon (the official heraldry office for Scotland) and by two students from the program's first cohort, Andrew Hashim and Abigail Gomulkiewicz.

The Lord Lyon King of Arms granted the arms. The program's website describes its meaning:

**QUAERITE ADSIDUE
ERUDITIONEM—SEEK TO
CONSTANTLY LEARN**

The **crossed keys** represent the College of William & Mary, the University of St. Andrews, and the Joint Degree Programme. They are intertwined to symbolise the strength of the relationship.

The **gold diamonds (or mascles)** are taken from the personal arms of Henry Wardlaw, Bishop of St. Andrews 1404–1440, who issued the original charter

which incorporated the *Studium Generale* in 1411 or 1412.

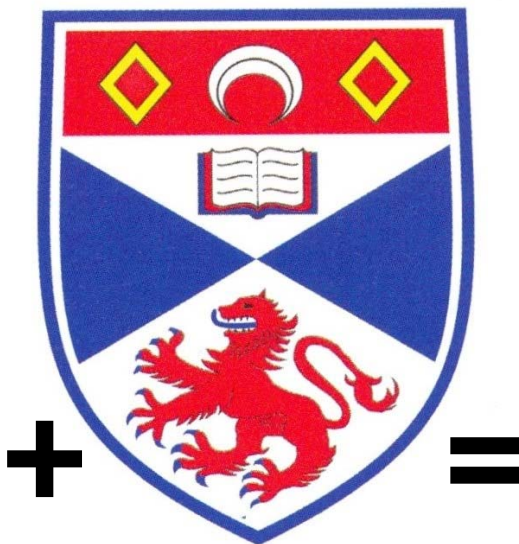
Featured in the William & Mary coat of arms, the **sun rising** represents the fountain of life and is indicative of glory and splendour.

An **open book** with red page edges traditionally represents learning.

The **griffin** is a mythical creature with the body of a lion evoking historic royal founding and early history and the head of an eagle which suggests the national symbol of the United States and represents the presidents, leaders, and productive citizens whom William & Mary has trained for centuries.

The **lion rampant** is taken from the royal arms of Scotland and represents the royal authority of King James I (1406–1437) who was associated with the foundation of the University of St. Andrews.

I'm pleased to share this interesting new coat of arms with the PFA.



The mascot (griffin) and arms (1694) of the College of William & Mary, Virginia, USA (left) and the arms (1905) of the University of St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland, UK (above).

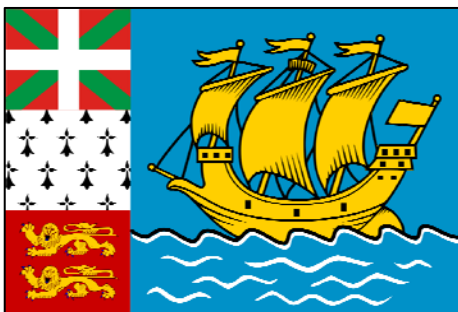
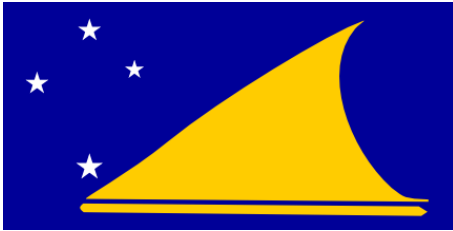


The arms of the joint program of the College of William & Mary and the University of St. Andrews.

What's that Flag?

By Tony Burton

Can you name these seven flags, which have an obvious common theme?



What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

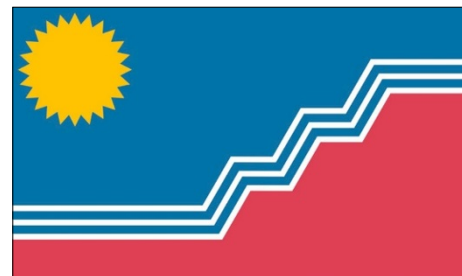
By Scott Mainwaring

Thanks in large part to a popular 2015 TED Talk by Roman Mars on the shortcomings of many city flag designs, efforts are under way in many U.S. cities to improve their flag designs—or to adopt flags for the first time.

These are seven of many proposals documented on portlandflag.org.



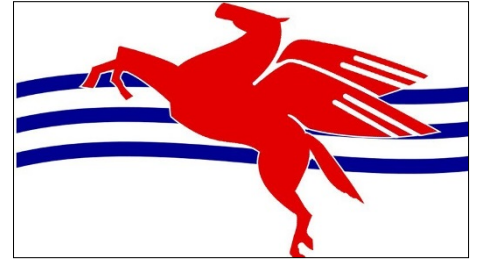
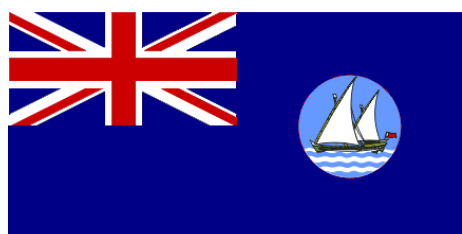
Bowling Green, Kentucky



Sioux Falls, South Dakota



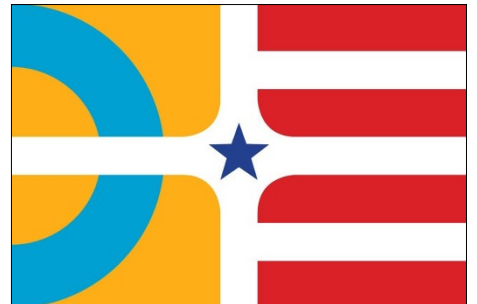
Kingston, New York



Dallas, Texas



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Columbus, Ohio



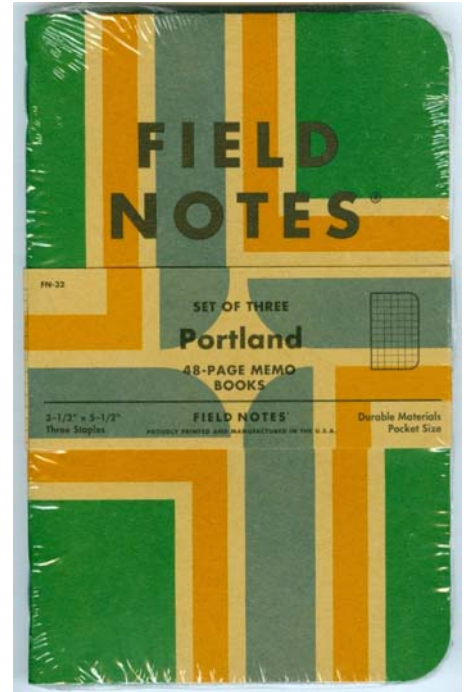
El Paso, Texas



Portland Flag Miscellany



Portland's own Leatherman Tool Group featured a Timbers Army image in a recent advertisement in *Portland Monthly*, featuring many flags—among them the city of Portland's. Leatherman makes the famous and eponymous multi-tool.



Portland's flag graces the cover of a Field Notes product, an American notebook brand of memo books and related accessories. The brand is a joint venture between Portland-based Draplin Design Co. and Chicago-based design firm Coudal Partners.

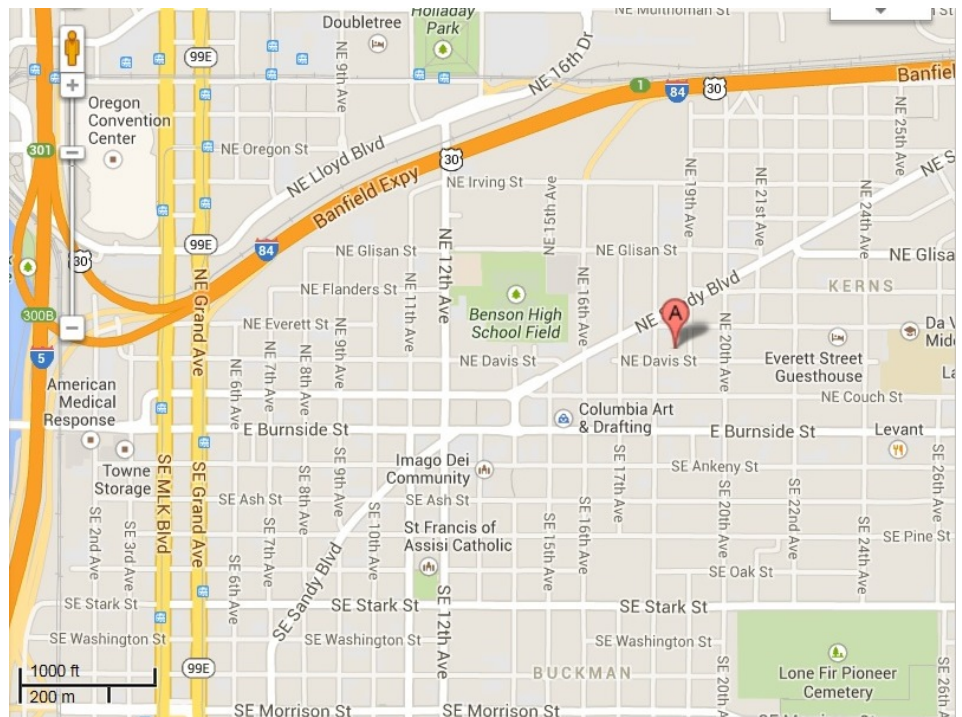
March Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 PM, Thursday, 9 March 2017, in the community space at the home of **Patrick Genna: 1865 N.E. Davis St., Portland, OR 97232.**

See the map at right.

We look forward to seeing those of you who have missed recent meetings and engaging in provocative flag-related discussion. Newcomers are welcome!

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



The *Vexilloid Tabloid*, founded in 1999 by the late John Hood, is published bi-monthly by and for the Portland Flag Association—Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Find back issues at www.portlandflag.org.