



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 114 October 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

The 10th Annual Vexi-Day	1
September 2025 Flutterings	2
Labor Day Flags	5
Whiteacre's Flag	5
Vexi-Day Celebrations	6
<i>I'm Too Vexi</i> , a Rap	7
Canada's Big Windsor Flag	8
VexilLOWlogy	9
Roundup	10
The Flag Quiz	11
Portland Flag Miscellany	12
Next Meeting	12

The 10th Annual Vexi-Day

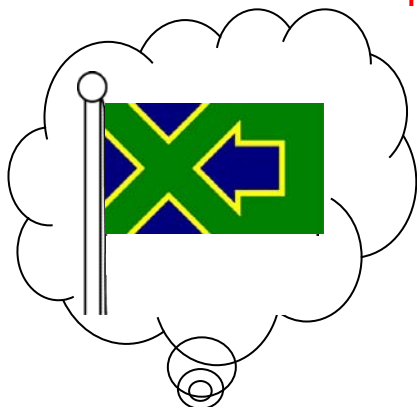
From the UK's Flag Institute:

Happy World Vexillology Day, one of the highlights of the vexillological calendar.

Each year on 1 October, flag enthusiasts around the world come together to celebrate flags and the study of vexillology. The date itself celebrates the world's first vexillological publication, *The Flag Bulletin*, on 1 October 1961, by Dr. Whitney Smith and Gerhard Grahl. The idea for designating and marking World Vexillology Day was the brainchild of the Portland Flag Association in 2016.

Since then, the day has grown in reach and imagination, embraced by individuals, schools, museums, and flag associations across the world. It is a chance to celebrate flags not only as symbols of identity, but as expressions of heritage, culture, values, and creativity.

World Vexillology Day is a moment to look up, learn, and share. However you choose to take part, we hope you feel connected to a global community united by colour, symbolism, and the stories that flags tell.



All around the world, flags speak to important human needs to express, to belong, to feel, to create, to learn.

— Scott Mainwaring



PFA members celebrate the first Vexi-Day in October 2016.

portlandflag.org | facebook.com/portlandflag | instagram.com/portlandflag

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.

September 2025 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our September meeting, hosted by Graham Houser at his father's Portland home in near Rocky Butte and streamed via Zoom, 13 members enjoyed three hours of flags and video conversation.

As host, Graham led the session, with the PFA flag hanging prominently, and showed several new acquisitions, including the new flag of Redding, California, the redesigned Disability Pride flag, and his own design for the Rocky Butte neighborhood flag.

Max Liberman described how the flag of the Straw Hat Pirates, from the Japanese *manga* series *One Piece*, has recently become a widely-used symbol of resistance to authority in protests in Indonesia, Nepal, France, and the Philippines.



Graham Houser unfurls his flag of Rock Butte (his neighborhood in Portland).



Max Liberman shows the Straw Hat Pirates flag used in protest.

Ralph Bartlett, joining from Melbourne, Victoria, discussed how Australia's blue and red ensigns and Eureka flag are being flown there at right-wing rallies (similar to current use in England).



Ralph Bartlett explores national flag use by right-wing groups.

Star Pesetsky described her interest in studying Pride flags and the displays of international flags at Lincoln High School.



Star Pesetsky considers a flag point.



Alden Jencks wears a T-shirt with the national and provincial/territorial flags of Canada.

Alden Jencks read a poem, *The Returned Battle Flags* (an 1880s ode to Southern banners by a Mississippi archivist), and led a spirited discussion of the evolution of Civil War-era flags representing the Confederacy.



Ted Kaye explains the NAVA 58 flag (St. Paul, Minnesota, 2024).



Joyce and William Gifford, proprietors of smallFLAGS in Oregon City, read flag articles from *The Economist* magazine (with the PFA flag behind).

Joyce Gifford shared two articles from *The Economist* magazine of June 2023, focused on state flag design (for which Ted Kaye had been interviewed).

William Gifford briefed the group on the efforts to update the seal (and flag) of Oregon City, where the Giffords live, and showed an image of a flag backdrop they will use at NAVA 59.

Ted Kaye coordinated carpooling plans for attendance at NAVA 59 in Seattle next month, then shared the flag of NAVA 58 and some items from ICV 30 from 2024, gave away flags of Salem, Oregon, and the Utah 125 commemoration, and posed the quiz from the last *VT* (the group solved it).

Kirin Cowell-Shaw described flag use he'd observed during a recent stay in Indonesia (comparing it to

public flag display in the United States but with extensive inclusion of Palestinian flags) and promised to forward his 20-page paper on flag design written for his Theory of Knowledge class at Lincoln High School.



Kirin Cowell-Shaw describes his recent paper on flag design.



Ken Dale reflects on language.

Ken Dale described a recently-republished 1985 article about the creation of Portland neighborhood flags, featuring then-mayor Bud Clark (see p. 10).

Kate Cushman, returning after a long absence, brought her favorite flag and recounted a challenge identifying an unusual flag flown in McMinnville (it represented the Young Leaders Program at Linfield University, led by NAVA member Brian McKinley!).

John Niggley, zooming in, showed recent flags bought on a visit to Kansas City, Missouri, including the city flag and the flag of the women's soccer team.



John Niggley visited his old KCMO stomping grounds and bought flags.



Kate Cushman shows the Oregon flag given her by the late Michael Orelove.

Alex Zimmerman, also zooming in, had returned from Canada with great finds, including an unofficial government flag used in the

Northwest Territories—a white polar bear on a medium blue field, plus other unusual flags bought at a flag store in Edmonton.



Alex Zimmerman enjoys the unofficial polar bear flag used in Canada's NWT.

Our next meeting, at 7 PM, Thursday, November 13, 2025, will be hosted by Larry Snyder at the Springs at Carman Oaks. Ted will deliver the PFA flag to Larry. We expect again to welcome our local members as well as far-flung friends.

Labor Day Flags

By Alden Jencks

As is my custom, I participated in this year's Labor Day march here in Portland. Quite expectedly, most of the marchers carried signs decrying the excesses of big business and the embattled lot of working men and women. In addition to these demonstrators, there were also, of course, various and sundry other folks, with each one pleading his or her own special cause. Once again, and as usual for a Labor Day march, most of these causes came from the left and the far left of the political spectrum.

What I noted in all of this—and what pleased me mightily—was the abundant display of American flags. Waving all of those flags showed me that the liberal left in this country is once again making an effort to reclaim the Stars and Stripes as ITS FLAG TOO! Union men and Democratic Socialist women, with their Stars and Stripes, were countering the

ongoing effort by the far right to co-opt the national flag as its sole and rightful possession.

I move now to another co-opted national icon: the “Don’t Tread on Me” Gadsden Flag.

During the parade I saw another act of willful and deliberate reappropriation at work. Disdaining right-wingers who have, for a generation, claimed the defiant snake as their own, two very resolute “union maids” carried their yellow banner along with the Stars and Stripes. For them, the rattlesnake’s venom was intended for exploitative employers, union busters, and scab-laborers.

Indeed, indeed. The “broad stripes and bright stars” of our national flag belong to ALL OF US! And the variegated, incidental flags which have festooned the rich history of our nation along the way belong to all of us as well.



Labor Day marchers on the Morrison Bridge, reclaiming two flags.

Whiteacre's Flag

By Stephen Krueger

Law Future is my collection of 25 original science-fiction/law stories. It is available on Amazon.

One story tells of a man who establishes a space station as an independent country, the Principality of Whiteacre. He conjures a set of laws and designs a flag.

The text describes the flag in both English and Latin (*Vexillo regni Whiteacrensis inest recta alba linea...*), because the protagonist was a lawyer and a life-long student of Latin. He used Latin as well in the context of drawing up contracts needed by the principality.

The 1:2 flag has a vertical white stripe (for the strong sunlight of space) and a black field (for the strong darkness of space). The white stripe at the hoist is 1/6 the flag's length. On the black field a circle of four white 5-pointed stars (each star represents a Whiteacre) is centered 1/3 the flag's height.

[amazon.com/Law-Future-Stephen-Krueger/dp/B0BPGGCRXM](https://www.amazon.com/Law-Future-Stephen-Krueger/dp/B0BPGGCRXM)



The flag of the fictional Principality of Whiteacre, a space station declared an independent country.

Vexi-Day Celebrations

Our own Scott Mainwaring conceived of Vexi-Day in 2016, inspiring the world vexillological community to celebrate the study of flags every year on October 1.

Readers of the *VT* chose many ways to recognize the occasion this year, sending images from around the world AND a re-written rap.



Pete Loeser, in Morgan Hill, California, flies Dave Martucci's 50-star update of the "Whipple" U.S. flag above the World Vexillology Day flag designed by Clay Moss (the globe features a multinational array of flags).



Jim Croft, in Enosburg, Vermont, flies Vermont's former and current state flags and the Green Mountain Boys Flag (associated with the 1777 Battle of Bennington).

Evolution of the Indian National Flag



VAJRA FLAG, 1904
The first serious attempt at flag-making came from Sister Nivedita (Margaret Elizabeth) in Kolkata (then Calcutta) in 1904. Nivedita's "The Vajra as a National Flag" was the first ever printed article on Indian flag, published in the Modern Review in 1909.



CHAKRA FLAG, 1906
Also known as the "Swastika Flag" or "Swastika National Flag", this Indian flag was created in Calcutta on 17th August 1906 during the Swadeshi movement. It was widely adopted by Indians who were protesting British rule, with Swastika flags accompanying the flag. Symbolizing resistance against British rule, the flag became a powerful emblem of the early nationalist struggle.



GANDHI FLAG, 1907
The first version of India's national flag, known as Gandhi's flag, was publicly displayed by Mahatma Gandhi in Calcutta on 26th August 1907 in England. Gandhi, however, had no formal connection to the flag. The flag was made by Himmat Chandra Khanna for Mahatma Gandhi, representing the spirit of unity and independence. After being brought back to India, the flag was widely symbolized by Mahatma Gandhi on 26th August 1907 in Pune. Today, the Gandhi flag is considered as the first national flag of India, serving as a lasting legacy to the early nationalist movement.



THE NATIONAL FLAG "TIRANGA", 1947
The present National Flag of India, popularly known as the Tiranga, was adopted on 22nd July 1947 by the Constituent Assembly. This decision was made following recommendations from an ad-hoc Flag Committee constituted on 23rd June 1947, chaired by Dr. Rajendra Prasad. The design retained the tricolour format of the earlier Purna Swaraj flag but replaced the Charkha (spinning wheel) with the Ashoka Chakra, symbolizing law, progress, and dharma.



Har Ghar Tiranga
2nd-15th August 2020



SWARAJ FLAG, 1931
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and S.P. Mukherjee, in consultation with Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi, created the flag during the Home Rule Movement. The flag failed to generate enough support.



SWARAJ FLAG, 1931
The Swadeshi (Self-Government) Flag, also known as the Swaraj Flag or Congress Flag, was introduced in 1931. Designed by Purna Vasudevan under the supervision of Mahatma Gandhi, it featured three horizontal stripes: white on top, green in the middle, and red at the bottom. The spinning wheel (charkha) was placed in the center of the flag on the suggestion of Lala Hardev. This flag symbolized unity among Indian citizens across religions and became a powerful emblem of the freedom movement. It remained in Gandhi's possession, being burnt by him in 1931.

Flag	Color Codes	Meanings
Top: Orange	HEX: #FFA500 RGB: (255, 165, 0) CMYK: (0, 100, 100, 0)	Orange or the Saffron denotes renunciation of worldly attachments
Middle: White	HEX: #FFFFFF RGB: (255, 255, 255) CMYK: (0, 0, 0, 0)	The white in the center is light, the path of truth to guide our conduct
Bottom: Green	HEX: #008000 RGB: (0, 128, 0) CMYK: (100, 0, 100, 0)	The green shows our relation to (the) soil, our relation to the plant life here, on which all other life depends
Center: Ashoka Chakra	HEX: #000000 RGB: (0, 0, 0) CMYK: (1, 1, 1, 0)	The "Ashoka Chakra" in the center of the white is the wheel of the law of dharma

COLOR CODES & MEANINGS OF INDIAN NATIONAL FLAG

SEKHAR CHAKRABARTI - 98312 20514

PRANOD INDRANARAYAN DUBLY - 98338 15334

In recognition of International Vexillology Day, India's FISCaL unveils this chart of the Evolution of the Indian National Flag (sent by Sekhar Chakrabarti).



Tim Gallagher, in North Falmouth, Massachusetts, flies an assortment of German flags.



Hervé Calvarin, president of the Société française de vexillologie, shows the flag of Uzbekistan—in anticipation of ICV 31 in Paris next year.

I'm Too Vexi, a Rap

By Minh Tan

On World Vexillology Day, I am awaiting furniture at my new apartment in Vancouver, BC, that is empty with an echo. All I can do to celebrate is try this modified rap I wrote last year for Vexi-Day, to the tune of *I'm Too Sexy*, by Right said Fred. (Sub in your favorite two-syllable location with a flag in the bracketed space.)

I'm too vexi for my love
Too vexi for my love
Love's going to leave me

I'm too vexi for my shirt
Too vexi to be curt
So vexi it hurts
And I'm too vexi for my friend
Too vexi for Milan
New York, and Japan
And I'm too vexi for your party
Too vexi for your party
The way I'm vexi dancing

I'm a Vexhead, you know what I mean
So I wave my [Spanish] flag on the catwalk
Yeah, on the catwalk, on the catwalk, yeah
I shake my [Turkish] flag on the catwalk

I'm too vexi for the bar
Too vexi for my car
Too vexi by far
And I'm too vexi for my hat
Too vexi for my flat
What ya think about that?

I'm a Vexhead, you know what I mean
So I wave my [Cuban] flag on the catwalk
Yeah, on the catwalk, on the catwalk, yeah
I shake my [Kenyan] flag on the catwalk

Too vexi for my
Too vexi for my
Too vexi for my
Cut!

I'm a Vexhead, you know what I mean
So I wave my [Chinese] flag on the catwalk
Yeah, on the catwalk, yeah, on the catwalk, yeah
I shake my [Aussie] flag on the catwalk

I'm too vexi for the brats
Too vexi for my cat
Poor pussy, poor pussy cat
I'm too vexi for my love
Too vexi for my love
Love's going to leave me



Canada's Big Windsor Flag

By Alden Jencks

In life, things are often not what they seem. And this is certainly the case with the symbolism of flag displays. I learned this lesson anew on a recent trip to Detroit.

In the early hours of my visit, I found myself standing on Detroit's waterfront, looking south across the busy waters of the Detroit River to Windsor, Ontario, on the far shore. There I saw a massive flagpole and a huge Maple Leaf Flag; a flag which absolutely dominated the panoramic scene.

"Okay," I said to myself knowingly, "that is Canada over there. You Canadians yonder, with your big flag, have certainly made your not-so-subtle point to me, the Yank standing here on the American shore."

Only the next day, when I took the bus through the famous international tunnel to Windsor, did I learn the true meaning of that gigantic Canadian flag.

For, you see, the monumental flag turned out to be the centerpiece of a moving and indeed heart-rending memorial garden; a hallowed space which honors the valiant Canadian soldiers who died during "Operation Jubilee", the ill-fated Canadian raid on the French port of Dieppe on August 19, 1942.

The flag and memorial garden are located, geographically, at the southernmost point of Canada,



Windsor, Ontario, as seen from Detroit, Michigan across the Detroit River.

but the message they proclaim goes out to the people of an entire nation, "Canada, the True North, Strong and Free".

Approximately 5,000 of the 6,000 allied troops who stormed ashore on that fateful day were Canadians, most hailing from Sussex and Hamilton counties in southern Ontario. The mission was to probe the shore defenses of Hitler's Fortress Europe and, perhaps, make off with German maps, documents, and even prisoners. This was the summer of 1942—any and all information gleaned would be invaluable for an eventual allied invasion of France, which was surely to come, perhaps within a year.

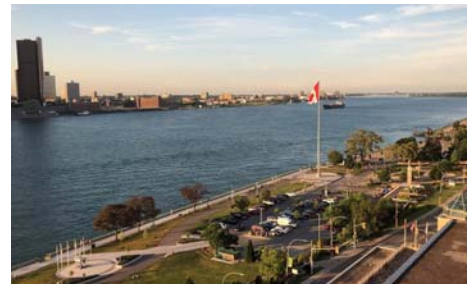
* * * *

The raid was an unqualified disaster. Of the 4,963 Canadians participating, 3,350 became casualties—killed, wounded, missing, or captured. And the survivors who struggled back to England arrived exhausted and empty-handed.

But the tragedy of Dieppe demonstrated two important things to be pondered over the next two years: It showed that an eventual landing on the French coast would be difficult and would require massive resources and careful planning. And the raid revealed the super-human valor of the Canadian soldier—valor which Canadians would again demonstrate on Juno Beach in the early hours of June 6, 1944.



Canadian soldiers captured at Dieppe.



Dieppe Gardens Park,
Windsor, Ontario.

VEXILLOWLOGY

FLAGS FROM OUR OWL KINGDOMS ● VEXILLOWLOGY = THE STUDY OF FLAGS ● OWL = OWL



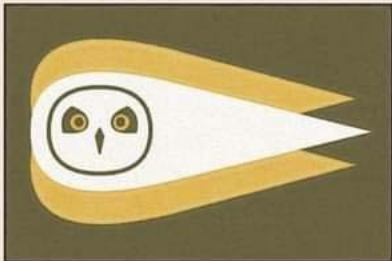
EURASIAN EAGLE-OWL



GREAT GRAY OWL



GREAT HORNED OWL



SHORT-EARED OWL



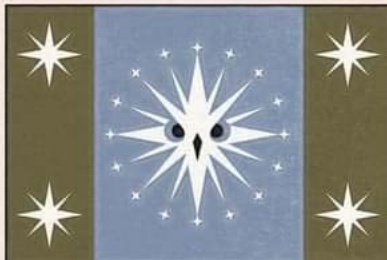
BARN OWL



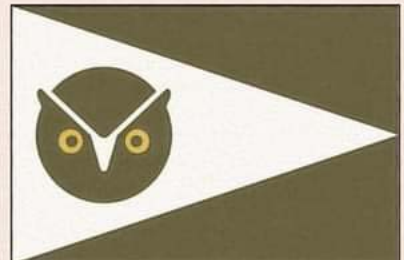
SNOWY OWL



BURROWING OWL



NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL



EASTERN SCREECH OWL



VEXILLOWLOGY ©MMXXIV ALEX TOMLINSON & PIGEON POST



A fun personal project by Alex Tomlinson, answering the question: “What if owls had flags?”.

See pigeonpost.cafe/products/vexillology-t-shirt for patches, shirts, and other merchandise. He writes:

Great Gray Owl — My personal favorite, loosely inspired by Japanese prefecture flags.

Barn Owl — 6 stars for the 6 continents it inhabits, barn red.

Short-Eared Owl — inspired by the owl’s Latin name “*Asio flammeus*”.

Great Horned Owl — moody broken saltire that happens to sort of form horned ears.

Roundup



The proposed “Fog & Gold” flag for San Francisco, designed by NAVA member Brian Stokle, appears among others at a recent protest about transit funding.



<https://flagsforgood.com/products/san-francisco-fog-and-gold-flag>

I want to live in a world where the flags are lowered for Jane Goodall

RIP Jane Goodall, 1934–2025.



1985: Mayor Bud Clark helps hold two of more than 25 neighborhood flags with representative of Portland neighborhoods. The flags were displayed in the foyer of City Hall as part of Neighborhood Week. The flags were flown in Pioneer Courthouse Square the week starting May 13, 1985.



This home at N.W. 24th and Raleigh in Portland is positively festooned on two sides with Pride flags.



The Watermelon flag (علم البطيخ), an alternate flag for Palestine, flying on a home on NW Thurman St.

See a full explanation here: disarmingdesign.com/product/watermelon-flag/

What's that Flag?

By Nikita Dudko | Никита Дудко

Identify these flags, and determine the theme that connects them.



What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

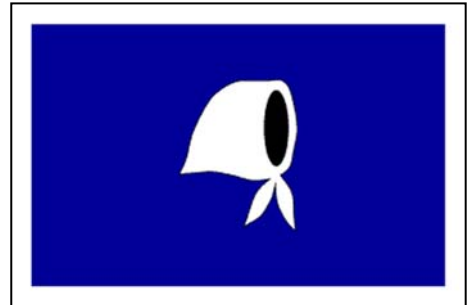
By Ted Kaye

These flags represent entities whose names invoke months of the year, displayed in sequence.

Congratulations to solvers: John Cartledge and Mike Thomas.



Associação 25 de Abril (Portugal).



Madres de Plaza de Mayo (Argentina).



Tres de Febrero District (Buenos Aires Province, Argentina).



Juneteenth (USA holiday).



March District (Schwyz Canton, Switzerland).



Movimiento 26 de Julio (Cuba).



Portland Flag Miscellany



Fictional logo for a fictional(?)
local team.

<https://slogodix.com/logos/2134892>



How do Portlanders feel about the
Portland city flag?
[reddit.com/r/Portland/
comments/117tj55/
how_do_portlanders_feel_about_the_
portland_city/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Portland/comments/117tj55/how_do_portlanders_feel_about_the_portland_city/)



A redditor's twist on the Portland city
flag.

[u/easykehl](https://www.reddit.com/user/easykehl)

[how-do-portlanders-feel-about-the-
portland-city-flag-v0-ktgvt3c4w56fl](https://www.reddit.com/r/Portland/comments/117tj55/how_do_portlanders_feel_about_the_portland_city_flag-v0-ktgvt3c4w56fl)



Flag stickers (including the city of Portland) on a car driving to the “No Kings” march in Portland this month.

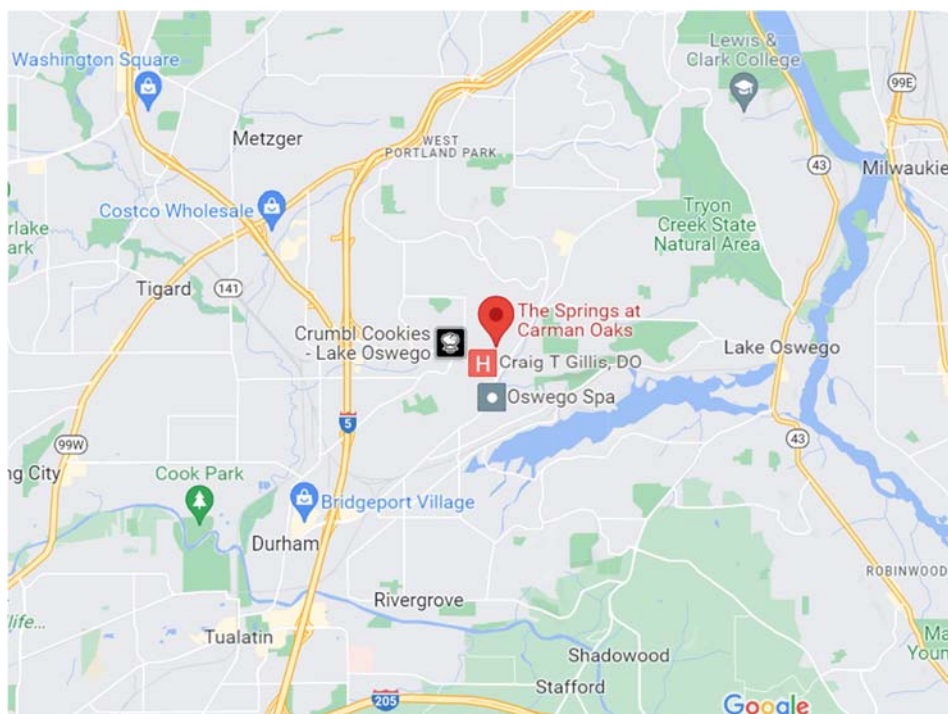
November Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 PM, Thursday, November 13, 2025, hosted by Larry Snyder at the Springs at Carman Oaks, 3800 Carman Dr., Lake Oswego.

Those who cannot attend in person should watch for a Zoom invitation.

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

Newcomers and friends from around the world are welcome!



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 portlandflag.org.