



# The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

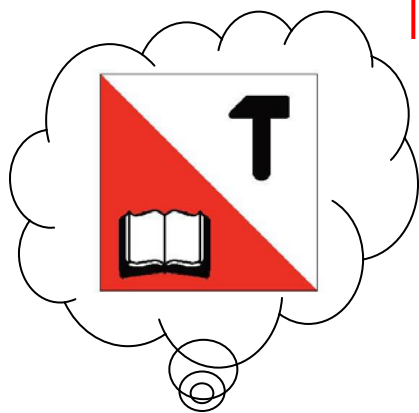
“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 61 December 2016

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[www.portlandflag.org](http://www.portlandflag.org)



***Flags are a universal characteristic of human civilization.***

—Dr. Whitney Smith,  
*Flags Through the Ages and Across the World*

## Whitney Smith 1940–2016

Whitney Smith, the visionary who organized and named vexillology, died 17 November in Boston.

Anyone with an interest in flags not only knows of Whitney, but owes him a huge debt. He gave the flag-studies field its name (as a 17-year-old enthusiast in 1957).

In the early 1960s he launched the Flag Research Center and the *Flag Bulletin*, and in the mid-60s he brought together the flag scholars of the US and Canada to start NAVA—the North American Vexillological Association, and those of the world to organize FIAV—the International Federation of Vexillological Associations.

For decades Whitney was likely the only person to make a living as a flag expert. Still, he proved consistently generous with his time and expertise to the old and young.

His master work, *Flags Through the Ages and Across the World* (1975), brought the study of flags to many people. In a 1999 survey, NAVA members listed up to five of their favorite flag books—4/5 of the respondents listed that book, usually in first place. It was one of over 25 books Whitney wrote, plus 233 numbers of the *Flag Bulletin* over 50 years and many other publications.

We salute the memory of a great friend and scholar.



Whitney Smith gives congratulations and his book to Mason Kaye, long-time PFA member, on the occasion of Mason's Driver-Award-winning talk at NAVA 33/ICV 18 in Victoria, BC, in 1999 (with 6 PFA members attending).

We meet the second Thursday of odd-numbered months. Please mark your 2017 calendars for PFA meetings at 7:00 PM at the following dates/locations:

1/12/17	Jessie Spillers
3/9/17	Patrick Genna
5/11/17	John Schilke
7/13/17	Ted Kaye
9/14/17	Scott Mainwaring
11/9/17	David Ferriday

Thank you to our generous hosts for their hospitality to the PFA!

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

## November 2016 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our November meeting, hosted by Fred Paltridge and his fiancée Willow Washburn in their new home, 11 PFA members enjoyed a lively 3+hour evening of flags. In the usual role of the host, Fred moderated the discussion.

Fred compared the red and white checks of arms of the royal families of Croatia (past) and Monaco.

Ted Kaye passed around newspaper clippings with flags as photo subjects, Željko Heimer's new book (see p. 5) which he'd edited, and Portland city flag pins, recently arrived from the vendor.

He also posed the most recent flag quiz to the members, described a visit to Columbia, S.C. (see p. 4), and shared some full-size flags from his collection, including those of the Saami nation, Ukraine (a gift from the Antarctic base commander), Western Ukraine (a gift from business colleagues), and a hospitality flag used by European hotels (comprising 16 country flags).



**David Koski wonders if Roman Mars has a personal flag...**



**Host Fred Paltridge (with Willow) moderates the discussion.**

David Koski anticipated the upcoming "Civil War" football game between the University of Oregon (Ducks) and Oregon State University (Beavers), wondering how to create a "flag for ambivalent people" who support both or neither side—perhaps using a platypus?

John Schilke reflected on his recent office cleaning, where he mostly just moved items around and gave away a few things...but kept his flag books!



**John Schilke reflects on office clean-up challenges.**



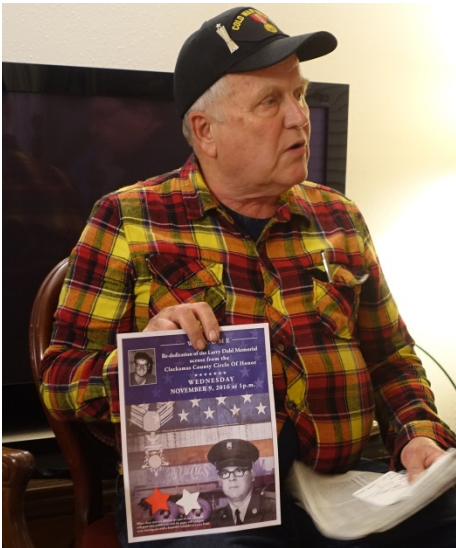
**William Gifford arranges 48 historic flags sold by Von's stores during 1976.**

William Gifford brought a 1976 bicentennial flag set with 48 historic flags and an explanatory booklet, marketed by Von's and created by the Golden State Display Mfg. Co. in N. Hollywood. He'd bought it recently from an antique shop after it was left out in the rain.

Michael Orelove described how he gave away his burgee collection to the local Sea Scouts (see p. 10).



**Michael Orelove shows the one burgee he retained in his collection—from the Royal Yacht Club, Suffolk, UK.**



**Ken Dale describes Clackamas County's only Medal of Honor winner.**

Ken Dale described the rededication of the memorial to Larry Dahl, a Medal of Honor winner from Clackamas County, just before Veterans Day, and related the experiences of his aunt, a nurse during WW2.

Joyce Gifford related how when the San Francisco Zoo needed 5,000 4"x6" California state flags for the opening of its bear exhibit on extremely short notice, the Giffords' Chinese source ran its factory day and night for two days to complete the order on time.

Jessie Spillers presented his recent learnings about the history and flags of Newfoundland, and



**Jessie Spillers describes the history of Newfoundland and its flags.**



**Ted Kaye stumps the crowd with the flag of Western Ukraine (a long-ago gift from software development vendor colleagues in Lviv) as Joyce Gifford looks on.**

described the most recent *Big Bang Theory* "Fun with Flags" episode.

David Ferriday showed some recent acquisitions, including a folk art U.S. flag with 8 stars and 9 stripes, a Betsy Ross House print which he gave to Fred & Willow, and an Irish city flag.



**David Ferriday unveils the flag of the Irish town of Loch Garman (Wexford), in County Wexford's colors.**

Erick Watkins, inspired by the flag of Cyprus, jokingly proposed a new flag for Portland, with its map silhouette and two "green stags".

Our next meeting will be at the home of Jessie Spillers on Jan. 12. Jessie took the Portland Flag Association flag home with him—the customary task of the next host.



**Erick Watkins shows what a Cyprus-inspired Portland flag might look like.**

## Flag Change in Columbia, South Carolina

By Ted Kaye

Columbia, the capital city of South Carolina, could really use a change of topic when it comes to flags.

As the focal point for display of the Confederate Battle Flag in the South, the city hosted a turning point in the fractious debate, with the removal of the flag from the Confederate Monument in front of the capitol, in July 2015, by order of Governor Nikki Haley.

Calls for the flag's removal had intensified since the murder of nine people in the Charleston church shooting the month before.

The flag had flown from a pole next to the monument, surrounded by a concrete deck and a small fence. Within a day of the decision to remove it, all of that was gone and sod was being laid in its place.

The most visible event associated with the flag was its lowering two weeks before as an act of civil disobedience by a young African-American filmmaker, Brittany Ann "Bree" Newsome, whose pole-climb went viral and won praise from Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

I visited Columbia in 2009 in conjunction with NAVA 43 (Charleston), and then again this year. That provided an opportunity to see the monument before (with flag) and after (without flag).

The Columbia Design League and the local arts-commission equivalent had invited me in September to speak about flag design and how the city flag might be improved.



Activist Bree Newsome capturing the Confederate flag on the SC state house grounds, as interpreted by Rebecca Cohen. [*Museum* May/June 2016]

Columbia's flag has served the city for more than a century, but it represents a bygone era (corn and cotton) with an outdated, ineffective design (a seal on a bedsheet).

Local leaders have begun an effort to consider updating the flag as part of reclaiming civic pride and improving the branding of the city. A large group came together at the Columbia Museum of Art for a workshop to learn about flag design and discuss ideas for change.



Columbia's media relations staff show the flag in the city council chambers. Adopted in 1912, it features the city seal and stalks of corn and cotton.



The South Carolina State House and Confederate Monument, 2009: Flagpole and fencing in place.



The South Carolina State House and Confederate Monument, 2016: Flagpole and fencing removed.

Perhaps this new flag topic will bring positive attention to Columbia. It may well show how flags are far more than designs on bits of cloth, and can serve a community as a unifying symbol.



A light-blue version of the Columbia city flag flies below the state and national flags outside City Hall.

## Roundup



Protesting in downtown Portland in support of the Malheur occupiers.

Portland hosted the trial of the armed occupiers of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in south-easter Oregon. In Chapman Square, in front of the US District Courthouse, supporters maintained a vigil, including this boy hoisting the national flag as a symbol of distress. In a surprise verdict, the defendants were acquitted.



John Niggley’s mother celebrated her 76th birthday on 18 Sept. 2016; John honored the event with the Bennington Flag.



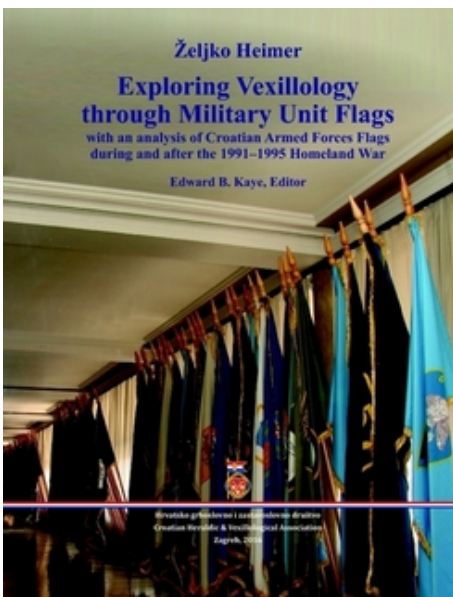
A golf ball with 32 national flags in pentagons and hexagons.



The surfer-pirate flag in Catlin Gabel School’s *Pirates of Penzance*.

How to represent surfer-pirates on a flag? Catlin Gabel School’s annual 8th-grade Gilbert & Sullivan operetta—this year *Pirates of Penzance*—replaced pirates and policemen with surfers and lifeguards, using a flag designed in a group effort led by Danny Lezak.

Our Croatian colleague, Lt. Col. Željko Heimer, has turned his PhD dissertation into a book, with editorial help from Ted Kaye. It’s available on demand at Lulu.com.



*Exploring Vexillology through Military Unit Flags*, by Željko Heimer.



Veteran Michael Orelove stands in front of his flag display at the Columbia Gorge Kiwanis Club Veterans Day appreciation pancake breakfast held in Corbett.

Among the flags was the 15–star 15–stripe flag. While Michael has been downsizing, he has retained a large number of flags, which he shares with the community and school groups.

## The *Fleur-de-Lis*: From Lys to Lis, or from Flower to Emblem

By Patrice de La Condamine

The *fleur-de-lis* is one of the most famous emblems in history. It was used in France particularly throughout the period of the monarchy. But we know little about its origin. What is it exactly?

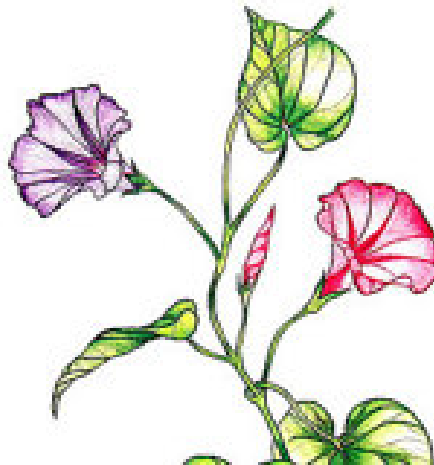
In accordance with its name, it would be good to begin with the flower itself.<sup>1</sup> The lily is an immaculate white flower with three petals at the end of a long stem. It gives an impression of elegance, natural grace, and delicacy. It is therefore not surprising that in observing nature, men have seen in the lily a symbolic representation of the highest virtues.

As Christianity gradually settled in Europe, many elements of Nature revered under old pagan beliefs transformed into intangible representations in the new religion, the lily included.

The lily came to represent Christian values: faith, wisdom, chivalry, and father, son, Holy Spirit. It represented the purity of the trinity. Simultaneously it became a heraldic representation of the Virgin Mary, an allegorical figure of heavenly immateriality and of eternity.

Incidentally, the name of the plant is spelled with a “y”: “lys”, while the heraldic lily is written with an “i”: “lis”, as highlighted in all the specialized literature.<sup>2</sup>

Some point to a different origin for the emblem, namely the yellow iris (*iris des marais*—*Iris pseudacorus*).



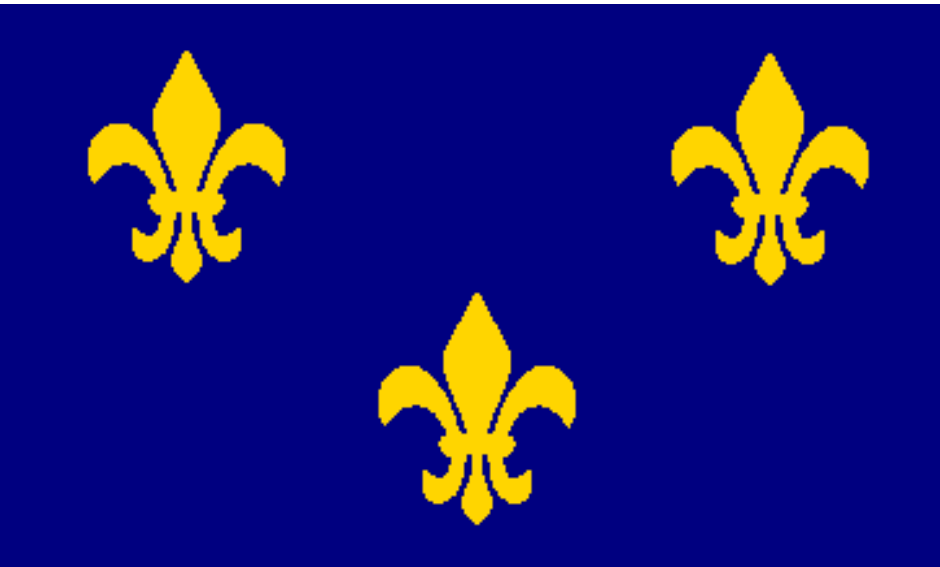
Clockwise from top left: lilies (*lis*), irises (*iris des marais*), bindweed or morning glory (*liseron*), common morning glory (*volubilis*).

This aquatic plant covers vast swamps of the Flemish countryside (where the Franks lived before entering Gaul) and was called *gele lis* or gold lily. A euphonic assimilation into French could well have been *fleur de lys*, an expression which history and heraldry have retained to the present day.

A fanciful legend from French history relates how King Clovis,<sup>3</sup> after winning the Battle of Poitiers in a marshy area full of yellow iris, placed the flower on a sky-blue background reflecting the water, to create a new symbol.

However, official French historiography does not accept this version.

Other plants have been called by the name *lys*, including lily of the valley (*muguet*—*Convallaria majalis*), also called a May lily, and the water lilies (*nénuphar* or *lys des étangs*) that float in a lily pond. Then there are the bindweed or morning glory (*liseron*), which belongs to another family (*Convolvulaceae*),<sup>4</sup> and the purple morning glory (*volubilis*—*Ipomoea purpurea*), with twining stem and arrow-shaped leaves which resemble aspects of the lily.



Flags of the Kingdom of France: semé of *fleur-de-lis* [1180–1364] (above) and a blue field with three *fleurs-de-lis* placed 2, 1 [1364–1632] (below).

The naturalist Pliny the Elder<sup>5</sup> considered the morning glory Nature's first attempt to create the perfect lily flower.<sup>6</sup> And etymologically, *liseron* derives from *lis*, from the Latin *lilius*, "lily". But these small plants are never cited as the source of the symbolism of French sovereigns.

The botanical lily has no monopoly on the explanation of the origin of the expression *fleur-de-lis*. Many other theories have been advanced:

they range from the conversion of Clovis,<sup>7</sup> who changed his previous symbols—toads—to lilies to symbolize the conversion of the Kingdom of France to Christianity; the evolution of "*Fleur de Loys*" (the flower emblem of King Louis VII) into *fleur-de-lis*; and the transformation of the spearhead of the Gallic tribes into the emblem we know.

But we'll save those stories for another time.



Québec has retained the original white *fleurs-de-lis* [1948 version].



The flag of the administrative region of Brussels, Belgium [1991].

It is faithful to the version of the yellow irises on a blue field, recalling the botanical origin of the *fleur-de-lis*.

## NOTES

1. "In all languages, the name refers to its origin in the lily of the garden." Source: Ottfried Neubecker, *Le grand livre de l'héraldique*, Paris, Bordas (French, 1982, 288 pp.), p.132.
2. The French Academy teaches that the pronunciation sounds the "s" when speaking of the flower, but omits the "s" sound when referring to the Arms of the House of Bourbon (the second corresponds to standard French pronunciation). In practice, however, the final "s" is sounded in both senses.
3. Clovis, 465–511, was a Frankish king and founder of the Merovingian dynasty which ruled France for two centuries.
4. *Convolvulaceae* derives from the Latin verb *convolvere*, "to wrap".
5. Pliny the Elder, 23–79, was a Roman writer and naturalist.
6. Jean-Bernard Cahours of Aspry, *Des fleurs de lis et des armes de France: Légendes, Histoire et Symbolisme*, Atlantica, 1998, p. 21.
7. Clovis was a pagan, but he converted to Christianity after his victory at Tolbiac against the Alemanni in 496. Baptized at Rheims, he committed his kingdom and his people to the new Catholic religion, and accordingly changed his emblems from toads to *fleurs-de-lis*.

## Vexiday: The First World Vexillology Day

By Scott Mainwaring

On 1 October the flag world came together to commemorate the first day dedicated to the celebration of flags and flag studies. **World Vexillology Day** (Vexiday for short) is an annual celebration, organized for the first time this year by vexillological associations around the world. (See *VT* #60 and <http://vexiday.org> for more information.)

**Slovenia.** Heraldica Slovenica organized a “photograph your favorite flag” activity.



Peter Pavel Klasinc shows the flag of the city of Maribor, Slovenia.

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin.** The group behind “the People’s Flag of Milwaukee” (@MilwaukeeFlag) tweeted: “It’s World Vexillology Day! #Disney’s #SmallWorld concept by #MaryBlair displays powerful flag design while promoting unity & peace #vexiday.”



Mary Blair’s concept art for *It’s a Small World After All* at the 1964 World’s Fair (now at Disneyland).

**Milan, Italy.** FIAV member organizations Bandiere Storiche and the Italian Center of Vexillological Studies (Centro Italiano Studi Vessillologici—CISV) hosted a day-long celebration of flags at the Sforza Castle in Milan. See <http://www.bandierestoriche.it/attivita.html> for more photos.



Italy’s Vexiday event took place in the courtyard of Sforza Castle.



Italian compatriots honor the memory of Peter Orenski with his flag for New Milford, Connecticut.



Fun with flags in Milan.



Attendees displaying the flags of CISV (left) and Bandiere Storiche (right).

First row: Marco Mecacci, Mario Dalceri, Alfredo Betocchi, Gigi Ferrara, Roberto Beschi.  
Second row: Roberto Fanello, Paolo Paddeu, Giovanni Sala.  
Third row: Alessandro Doldi, Flavio Marchetto.

**France.** The Société française de vexillologie (SFV) asked members to send in flag photos.



SFV president Hervé Calvarin with a tricolor from the 1944 Liberation of Paris.

**Tallahassee, Florida.** Blogger Adam Moran (@HistorybyMoran) tweeted his personal flag with hashtag #vexiday.

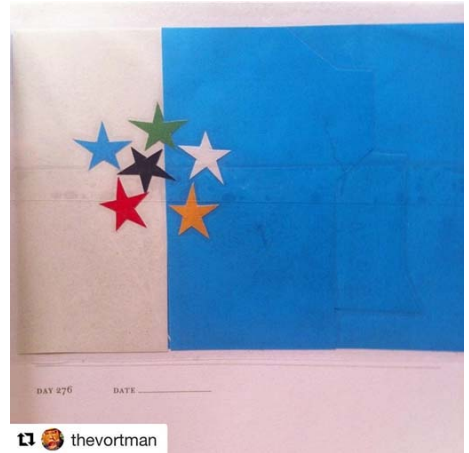






Members of the Portland Flag Association with the PFA flag.  
From left to right: Max Liberman, Patrick Genna, Scott Mainwaring,  
Michael Orelove, Ken Dale, Ted Kaye.

**Salt Lake City, Utah.** Each day Vort Man posts his collage-based flag art to Instagram (see [instagram.com/explore/tags/flagaday](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/flagaday)); his Vexiday post honored FOTW.



Vort Man's collage of the flag of the Flags of the World (FOTW) Internet collective.

**Portland, Oregon.** The PFA celebrated Vexiday with a flag display at Salmon Street Springs, a public plaza in downtown Portland. A great way to engage curious passersby!



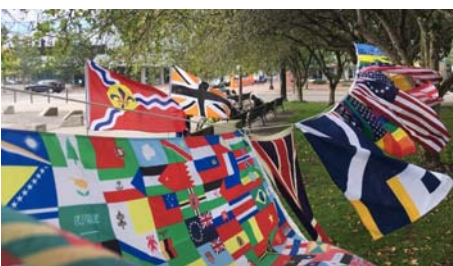
Michael Orelove tells Portland visitors about his 50-star, 50-stripe flag.



An onlooker proudly poses with his country's flag.

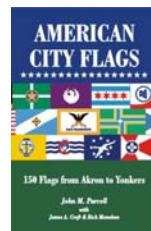
**Tbilisi, Georgia.** The first Georgian National Conference of Vexillology and Heraldry celebrated Vexiday before the closing dinner.

**San Jose, California.** The North American Vexillological Association (NAVA) recognized Vexiday by awarding its initiator, Scott Mainwaring, the 2016 John Purcell Award for promoting public understanding of vexillology.



Flags flying at Salmon Street Springs.

**Wichita, Kansas.** Promoters of Wichita's excellent flag ([ilovewichita.org](http://ilovewichita.org)) celebrated its appearance on the cover of NAVA's *American City Flags* (Raven 9/10).



@WichitaFlag tweeted: "Adding 'book cover model' to my list of accomplishments and celebrating Oct 1 @vexiday. #ilovewichita & #worldvexillologyday"



NAVA's 2016 John Purcell Award honors the initiator of Vexiday.

## Michael Orelove's Burgees Make Port

By Michael Orelove

I've been downsizing and looking for a place to donate my collection of 26 burgees from yacht clubs from around the world. PFA member Larry Snyder suggested the local Sea Scouts and put them in contact with me.

Sea Scouts is a coed program of the Boy Scouts of America for young adults ages 14 to 21 who are interested in sailing and boating. The program focuses on sailing and cruising either sailboats or power vessels. During the boating season, Sea Scouts learn to maintain and operate a vessel, with a focus on learning the safe and proper methods of handling boats. Sea Scouts also learn the

meaning of buoys and lights, how to take advantage of wind and tides, and how to drop anchor or approach a dock.

In appreciation for my donation of the burgees, the Sea Scouts gave me one of theirs! It has the Boy Scout logo superimposed over an anchor, with the organization's motto "Be Prepared".

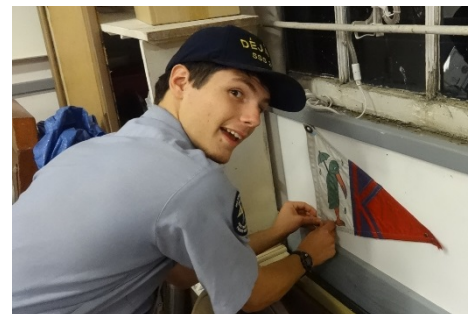
The Sea Scouts boathouse on the Columbia River (home to SSS601) now has a collection of burgees from around the world. I'm so pleased that they have made port in such an appropriate "harbor".



A scout hangs the burgee from the Waikiki Yacht Club, Hawaii, bearing a large "W" which fits perfectly in the triangular-shaped flag.



The burgee from the Greenwich Yacht Club of London, England, with the nautical symbol of a trident.



A scout hangs the burgee from the Ketchikan Yacht Club, Alaska. It rains a lot in Ketchikan and the burgee bears a bird holding an umbrella.



Michael with the Sea Scouts burgee, a gift from Ship (troop) 601.



Proud Sea Scouts pose with some of the burgees on the walls of their Columbia River boathouse (on Marine Drive).



Skipper Bill hangs up four burgees from the Cold Springs Harbor Yacht Club, New York.



Sea Scouts and their leader show the U.S. Power Squadron cruise pennant and burgees from the Antique & Classic Boat Society of Clayton, New York; the Royal Yacht Squadron from the Isle of Wight, UK; and the Port Orchard Yacht Club, Washington.



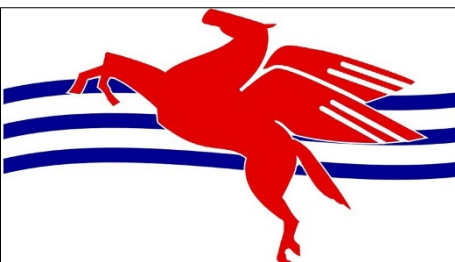
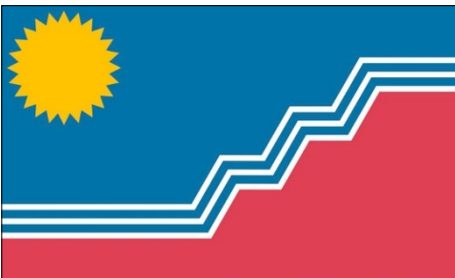
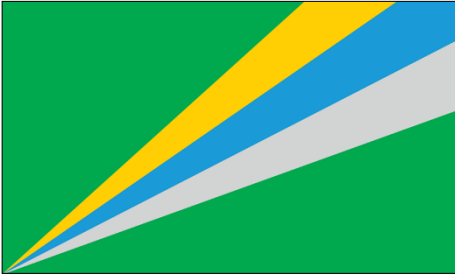
A scout hangs the burgee from the Port Orchard Yacht Club, Washington. Below is the burgee from the Corinthian Yacht Club of Seattle.

## What's that Flag?

By Scott Mainwaring

Can you name these seven designs, and explain the common theme?

Answers in the next issue...



## What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

By Tony Burton

Flags with a star or several are common. Less so are those using more than 5 points. Here are seven of less than dozen with a single star of more than 5 points—presented in ascending order: 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 24.

(There appears to be no flag with a 10-pointed star—except for one of the original Fiji finalists published in error. A 10-pointed star has certain occult connotations).

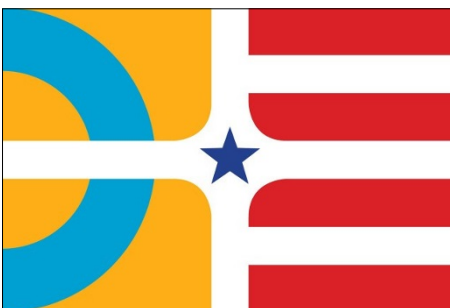
Congrats to Michael Orelove, and to Mike Thomas (Luxembourg) and John Cartledge (Great Britain) who seem to have a time zone advantage in responding first.



Israel



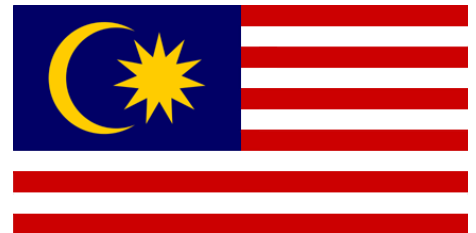
Jordan



Azerbaijan



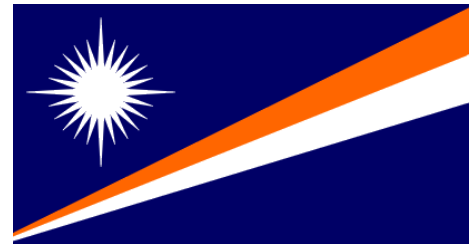
Sarawak, Malaysia



Federation of Malaya 1950–1963



Nauru



Marshall Islands



## Portland Flag Miscellany



A Portland brewpub, Coalition Brewing on S.E. Ankeny, bases a beer label on the Cascadia flag. “Cascadian Dark Ale”, also known as a “Black IPA” or an “India Black Ale”, is a style of beer recently growing in popularity.

For more on the Cascadia flag, see VTs 36, 43, & 53.



Other beers use the Cascadia flag to promote secession from the US & Canada.



Cascadia flags appear as tifo at Timbers games—led by the fans of our MLS champions.

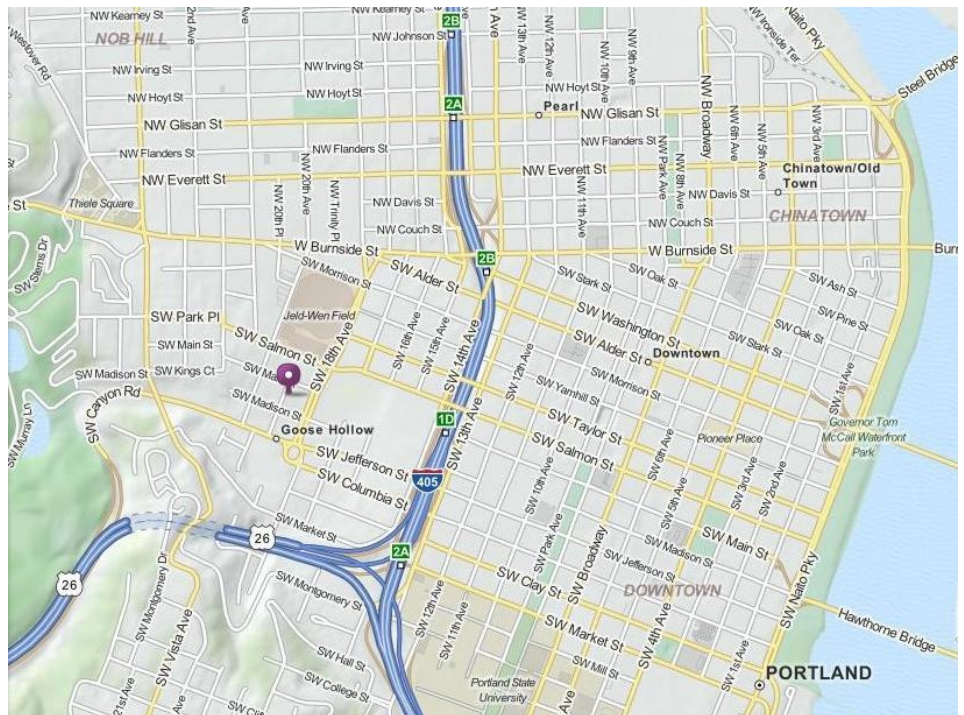
## January Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, January 12, 2017 at the home of Jessie Spillers (Legends), 1132 S.W. 19th Ave., Portland, OR 97205. You can take MAX.

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.

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](http://www.portlandflag.org).