

NO. 196 OCTOBER—DECEMBER 2007

# NAVA News

The Quarterly Newsletter of the  
North American Vexillological Association

## NAVA 41 Meets In Hartford

Page 4



### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

New NAVA Members .....	1
Fischer and Commodore Hopkins .....	2
NAVA 41 Group Photo .....	8
Vexillonnaire .....	9
Flag Metamorphoses .....	10
Bear Flag Museum .....	10
"North American Union" Flag .....	11
NAVA Donors .....	12
Chumley .....	13

Selections from "Flags of the World" optical  
illusion series created by photographer  
Henry Fernando of Ontario, Canada.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Notable Efforts

As we all know, NAVA is an all-volunteer organization. Everything we do — publications, meetings, research, support for flag-design efforts, and so on — happens because one or more NAVA members committed their time and effort to making it happen, with no remuneration other than the satisfaction of contributing to a worthwhile cause.

I've worked with many volunteer organizations over the years, and just about all of them have faced the problem of finding volunteers. It's a bit more subtle than it appears at first glance. There is seldom a shortage of people with good ideas, or who say that they are

willing to help. The hard part is to find people who are willing, not just to "help," but to take on responsibility for a particular area or project. It's not surprising that most people don't want to do this — most of us have regular jobs

and look on vexillology as a diversion from responsibility. The problem, of course, is that an international organization like NAVA won't run itself. Someday, perhaps, we'll be able to afford a paid staff to take care of our administration and staff our projects, but that's not in the cards any time soon.

The impressive thing (to me, anyway), is that people do volunteer to take on responsibility. In the last month or so, we've had two examples that I'd especially like to recognize. Bill Trinkle, the driving force behind the splendid Bear Flag Museum web site, has offered to honcho a project to digitalize the NAVA News archives. Once complete, every issue of NAVA News will be available as a searchable PDF on the members' section of the web site. We're also working on linking the files to the existing *NAVA News/Raven* index. This will be a tremendous resource for researchers.

The other recent volunteer is Al Cavallari, well-known to everyone as the proprietor of The Flag Guys. Al has agreed to take on the job of NAVA Shopkeeper, replacing Rich Monahan who has had to relinquish the job because of military commitments. Al's wealth of experience will help us revitalize the Shopkeeper function, and hopefully add some additional items. Thank you, Bill and Al, for your support and commitment!

*continued on page 13*

Contact Peter Ansoff: [pres@nava.org](mailto:pres@nava.org)

## RAVEN Volume 14 Debuts This Fall

With its 2007 issue, NAVA's scholarly journal *Raven* continues its standard format: several excellent articles on diverse flag topics. They represent the pinnacle of vexillological scholarship in North America and include the winner of the 2006 Captain William Driver Award.

Each article connects history to the present through an understanding of flags and their use in Canada and the United States and beyond, showing that flags are much more than static bits of cloth—they form a dynamic part of human public ritual. *Raven* is a benefit of NAVA membership.

Articles in Volume 14 of *Raven* include:

### "To make the unmistakable signal 'CANADA'": The Canadian Army's "Battle Flag" during the Second World War

*Ken Reynolds, Assistant Heritage Officer for the Canadian Forces at the Directorate of History and Heritage, Department of National Defence—Ottawa, Ont.*

*continued on page 1*

#### NAVA News

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## MILESTONES

## New Members for 2007

NAVA's Executive Board thanks those who renewed their membership during the past year and welcomes these new members for 2007:

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 Dr. John Schott, *Orlando, Fla.*  
 Tender Heart Press, *Odessa, Texas*  
 Dana J. Torp, *Provo, Utah*  
 Carlos Torres, *Livonia, Mich.*  
 Jeremy Tramer, *Santa Monica, Calif.*  
 Stephen Turpin, *Virginia Beach, Va.*

## 2007-2008 NAVA Officers

At NAVA 41 in Hartford, Conn., members re-elected the current Executive Board to serve for the 2007-2008 year. Those officers are:

Peter Ansoff, *President*  
 Devereaux Cannon, *1st Vice President*  
 Kevin Murrar, *2nd Vice President*  
 Chad Crabtree, *Secretary*  
 Edward Kaye, *Treasurer*

## RAVEN Articles Varied & Lively

*continued from inside front cover*

When Canada entered the war as a dominion of the British Empire, the question of "under what flag would her troops fight?" resulted in a significant proposal which not only went into battle, it would influence the debate twenty years later over the design of the new national flag. This article draws on the military archives illuminate the history of that glorious flag.

### Wave It or Wear It?

#### The United States Flag as a Fashion Icon

*Laura K. Kidd, associate professor at Southern Illinois University—Carbondale, Ill.*

As Americans' relationship with their flag evolved over two centuries, so too did their attitudes about using it as part of their clothing. This fascinating analysis and description of the changing opinions and styles of flag-wear in the United States traces its ups and downs from the Revolutionary era to today.

### The Freedom to Display the American Flag Act: Construction and Constitutionality

*Brian Craig, attorney and adjunct instructor of law with the Minnesota School of Business/Globe College—Eagan, Minn.*

When NAVA member and flag dealer Hugh Warner approached his congressman about his customers' problems with homeowners associations limiting flag display, Congress promptly passed an act prohibiting such restrictions. That act and its legal history receive an interesting and thorough discussion and analysis.

### Flags, Medals, and Decorations

*Gustavo Tracchia, former NAVA vice president and Ottfried Neubecker Award-winner—Kew Gardens, N.Y.*  
 Phaleristics—the study of medals—provides an opportunity to explore the rich connections between medals and heraldry and flags. This article begins with the Crusades and traces many examples of flags whose colors, designs, or symbols ultimately derive from or influence the medals awarded by orders of knighthood and merit, and civil and military decorations.

# David Hackett Fischer and Commodore Hopkins' Flags

BY PETER ANSOFF\*

*"Most American images of liberty and freedom were deliberately and consciously invented. In many cases it is possible to discover the exact moment of invention, the identity of the inventor, and the intended meaning."<sup>1</sup>*

— DAVID HACKETT FISCHER  
Preface, *Freedom and Liberty*

David Hackett Fischer, the 2004 Pulitzer Prize-winner for history, wrote *Freedom and Liberty* to illustrate the development of America's founding ideas via symbols that have historically been used to represent those ideas. As one would expect, his work includes many references to flags. This article focuses on one particular instance of symbolism that Fischer treats in his book: the famous Thomas Hart portrait of Commodore Esek Hopkins. This portrait is the primary source for the legendary "First Navy Jack." Fischer's analysis of the portrait follows:

Early in 1776 . . . appeared . . . a portrait of Ezek Hopkins, the first commander of the infant Continental Navy. The artist, John Martin, painted Commodore Hopkins on the deck of a warship. In the background of the painting are two American men-of-war, both cleared for action and firing broadsides. One ship displays the official flag of Massachusetts: a Liberty Tree with the motto "An Appeal to God." The other vessel flies the naval ensign of South Carolina, a rattlesnake with the words "Don't Tread on Me." A scholar observes, "It could be assumed that . . . the two flags represented the northern and southern colonies united under Hopkins."

This image was a noble attempt at a national iconography, but its elements did not come together. The two flags represented different ideas of liberty and freedom, and the tension between them was deepened by an accident of composition. The artist arranged the ships of Massachusetts and South Carolina so that they appeared to be firing at one another: hardly an image of American unity, and a portent of things to come. A French engraving of the same painting removed the scene of combat but kept the theme of difference by juxtaposing the two flags below the portrait. Even so, it was not a convincing emblem of a common cause.<sup>2</sup>

Unfortunately, much of the information in those

two paragraphs is wrong, and Fischer's conclusion is not supported by the facts. The problems start with the bibliographical information. The Hopkins portrait was not "painted" by "John Martin"; in fact, no original painting is known to exist. The oldest-known original is a mezzotint engraving by an unknown engraver, published in London by an unknown print seller using the pseudonym of Thomas Hart. Fischer's "John Martin" was actually Johann Martin Will, a well-known German engraver who published a copy of the Hart image.<sup>3</sup>

Fischer's explanation of the two flags in the engraving is slightly less than half-correct. The right-hand flag is similar to the flag of the Massachusetts State Navy, adopted in April 1776; the actual motto was "Appeal to Heaven", not "God". The association of the left-hand flag with South Carolina, however, is a legend with no known factual basis. It traces back to a red-and-blue version of the striped rattlesnake flag appearing on a color plate in Preble's 1872 history of the American flag.<sup>4</sup>

The scholar quoted by Fischer as suggesting the "north and south" interpretation of the two flags is Edward Richardson, who made the claim in his 1982 book on Revolutionary War flags.<sup>5</sup> The interpretation might make sense if the rattlesnake flag really had been associated with South Carolina, and if such an association could have been known to an English engraver in the summer of 1776. The first condition has already been discussed, and the second is also unlikely. The flag of South Carolina in 1775-1776 was blue with a white crescent; this flag was raised over Fort Johnson when it was occupied by colonial troops in September 1775, and also flew over Fort Sullivan when the British attacked Charleston in June 1776.<sup>6</sup> A more likely explanation is that the two flags shown in the engraving were simply artistic interpretations of flags that had been reported in the English press as associated with the American revolutionary cause.

Fischer states that this engraving was "a noble attempt at a national [American] iconography". We've already seen that it is actually a *British* engraving published in London. We do not know the motivations of the engraver and print seller, but it is highly unlikely that they were thinking of a "national iconography" for the rebellious American colonies across the Atlantic. It is more plausible that they were simply trying to make some money from the popular interest in the leaders and events of the American war.

Fischer's point that the two ships appear to be firing at each other is interesting, but one suspects

that the creator of the image was not thinking in such subtle terms. The same applies to the idea that the two flags were supposed to represent different interpretations of liberty and freedom. The latter would make sense if the “north and south” interpretation were valid; presumably, the point would be the importance of slavery in the southern colonies. As discussed, that interpretation is not supported by the facts..

Fischer’s “emblem of a common cause” was not, in all probability, intended to be an emblem of anything. It is a British, not American, image, and it is very unlikely that its intended meaning was anything so subtle. It is simply a fanciful portrait of one of the early leaders of the American cause,<sup>7</sup> with some decorative images of flags and ships in the background.

It would be easy to criticize Fischer for failing to critically analyze the context of the Hart portrait, and for jumping to conclusions about its meaning. Obviously, it is important to let the evidence say what it says, rather than what we want it to say. However, we should also remember that, when dealing with esoterica like flags, historians must often rely on secondary sources. Much of the secondary literature on American flag history is wrong, or, at the least, very misleading. The vexillologist’s task is to assist historians by identifying, documenting and correcting the errors and misconceptions. The interesting paradox is that, to do so, we must often look beyond the flags and images themselves to the historical and cultural context that created them.

\* The author thanks Dr. Scot Guenter for reviewing a draft of this article and providing very perceptive comments.

<sup>1</sup> Fischer, David Hackett, *Liberty and Freedom* (New York: Oxford, 2005) 15.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 130-131

<sup>3</sup> For a detailed discussion of the history of this portrait, see Peter Ansoff, “The First Navy Jack,” *Raven* 11 (2004).

<sup>4</sup> Preble, George, *Our Flag, the Origin and Progress of the United States of America* (Albany: Joel Munsell, 1872) 165 and facing 143. See Ansoff, 33-36, for a detailed discussion



Mezzotint Portrait of Esek Hopkins. Published as the Act Directs, August 22, 1776, by Thomas Hart. *Independence Seaport Museum*

of the red-and-blue-striped rattlesnake flag and its purported relationship to South Carolina.

<sup>5</sup> Richardson, Edward, *Standards and Colors of the American Revolution* (Philadelphia: Penn., 1982) 21.

<sup>6</sup> Patrick O’Kelley, who wrote the war in South Carolina, states this flag also flew on the South Carolina state ship *Defense* when she exchanged shots with two British ships on 11 November 1775. *Nothing but Blood and Slaughter*, vol. 1 (Patrick O’Kelley, 2004) 35-36. There is no source for this statement; it may have resulted from a misinterpretation of the image on a South Carolina bank note, printed in December 1776, that shows a ship flying the flag as its ensign and jack.

<sup>7</sup> The likeness in this engraving is almost certainly imaginary. Fifty-eight years old in 1776, a contemporary account describes Hopkins as “an antiquated figure,” while the portrait depicts a young man. For a discussion of Hopkins portraits, see Edward Field, *Esek Hopkins, Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Navy During the American Revolution 1775-1778* (Providence: Preston & Rounds Co., 1898) 265-268. See also Ansoff, 5-10.



## NAVA 41 Showcases New England Treasures

"I've had one of the most enlightening weekends I've had in years! To be surrounded by the foremost experts in a field I've always loved but never had the time to properly apply myself was an epiphany," was how one first-time attendee described NAVA's 41st Annual Meeting.

Over 50 NAVA members and their guests convened in the Hartford suburb of Glastonbury, Connecticut, from 12-14 October 2007 for NAVA 41. They enjoyed Connecticut hospitality during an ambitious Saturday tour visiting the State Capitol's Hall of Flags and the Connecticut Historical Society's extensive collection while navigat-

ing the lines of the Hartford Marathon, with 7,000 runners passing through downtown!

At the Capitol, curator Gerry Caughman, who has led the effort to preserve and protect the historic banners for over 20 years, guided NAVA visitors through about two-thirds of the state's outstanding collection of 171 Civil War battle flags. The society then put on a huge welcome for NAVA visitors, pulling out several dozen outstanding flags and flag-related items from its holdings and conducting a "behind-the-scenes

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ABOVE: An unidentified early 19-century Connecticut state flag in the collection of the Connecticut Historical Society. *Photo by Ted Kaye.*

tour" with NAVA members providing the museum staff with expert consultation on many items with mysteries in their provenance or identification. "It's like the Antiques Roadshow, except with the experts sometimes disagreeing!" one observer commented. The four-hour visit culminated with a presentation on "Collections Preservation: Doing the Right Thing".

Dr. Susan P. Schoelwer, the society's chief curator, spoke at the Saturday night dinner on the 1864 Treasury Guards regimental flag (U.S. colors) which decorated the presidential box at Ford's Theatre on the night of President Abraham Lincoln's assassination. She gave an entertaining and informative talk on the flag's history, how it came to the society, and how it gained fame in 2001.

During the meeting sessions, eight members presented on a variety of flag topics. Perry Dane, a Rutgers University law professor, won the prestigious Captain William Driver Award for his presentation on "Flags in Context: A Discussion of Design, Genre, and Aesthetics".

During the business meeting, the current Executive Board was re-elected. Minutes of the business meeting are available in the "Members Only" section of the NAVA website.

The popular "Vexi-Bits" session provided an eclectic "show-and-tell" of many interesting flags and flag stories. Many attendees brought flag items to sell and all wore individualized nametags created by John Hood, of Portland, Ore., who included state and city flags, personal flags, NAVA officer flags, and other flags unique to each attendee. The flags of past NAVA meetings lined the hotel corridor, and members' personal flags decorated the dining room. The NAVA 41 flag flew outside the hotel, at half-staff with the other flags, honoring a recently fallen Connecticut soldier. Participants in NAVA 41 returned home with many souvenirs, including a 4"x6" NAVA 41 flag (designed by Dean Thomas), flags bought at very attractive prices at the auction benefiting NAVA, and memories of an informative and entertaining weekend devoted to flags and camaraderie.

*NAVA 41 coverage continues on page 6.*

## The Flag of NAVA 41



Vector art by Michael Raney.

Designed by Dean Thomas of Downey, Calif. You can own a 3'x5' NAVA 41 flag for just \$129. All paid orders received by December 31st will be fulfilled. Orders received after that date will be returned, so don't delay! Orders may be placed by mail or PayPal. By Mail: Send checks, payable to NAVA, to: NAVA c/o 2235 NW Aspen, Portland, OR 97210. By PayPal: Send a PayPal payment to [treas@nava.org](mailto:treas@nava.org). Include shipping instructions.

## NAVA 41 Presentations

### **The East India Company Flag in Philadelphia in 1754: An Unexpected Solution to a Historical Puzzle**

Peter Ansoff

### **The Oregon State Flag**

Carita Culmer

### **Flags in Context: A Discussion of Design, Genre, and Aesthetics** (Driver Award Winner)

Perry Dane

### **The Flag of Americo**

Kevin Harrington

### **Twelve Tribes of Israel — Journey with the Lion of Judah**

Marilyn Hitchborn

### **American Indian Flags and the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial**

Ted Kaye

### **The Ensignment of the Romani**

Whitney Smith

### **Unitarian Argentine Flags in the River Plate: 1830s-1850s**

Gustavo Tracchia

# NAVA 41 Looks at Hartford's Holdings



TOP: Conn. State Capitol's Hall of Flags. MIDDLE: Magnificent "Great Star" canton flag at Conn. Historical Society. BOTTOM: Kin Spain ponders a mystery flag at the society's museum.

## Representative items viewed at the Connecticut Historical Society:

- Revolutionary War era colors of 2nd Battalion, Second Connecticut Regiment (red silk painted in gold, recently restored; illustrated in Richardson, *Standard and Colors of the American Revolution*, 80-81, plate 24) [Pictured directly above]
- War of 1812 colors of 3rd Connecticut Regiment, carried by Ebenezer Prentis, of New London, Color Sergeant; recently restored
- Civil War colors of 13th Connecticut Regiment Volunteer Infantry, 1862 (painted silk with metallic sequins and fringe, presented by the Loyal Women of New Orleans after the city's fall to Union forces; in fragmentary condition, recently stabilized)
- Thirty-one-star U.S. flag with Connecticut state seal on reverse of canton, ca. 1850
- 1864 Treasury Guards regimental flag (U.S. colors), used to decorate the Presidential box at Ford's Theatre the night of Lincoln's Assassination, together with supporting materials documenting its provenance
- Pair of women's shoes, ca. 1780, which appear to have been made from British regimental colors
- Banner carried by Hartford Wide Awakes during torchlight rally held during Abraham Lincoln's visit to Hartford in March 1860
- Swallowtail pennant used as trail flag on Admiral Richard Byrd's Antarctica expedition, 1932

## More Photos Online

Al Cavallari's photos of flags at the Connecticut Historical Society are available at [www.flagguys.com](http://www.flagguys.com), and more photos from NAVA 41 are on the NAVA website: [www.nava.org](http://www.nava.org).



## Lincoln Assassination Flag Wows NAVA 41 Attendees

On July 5, 2001, the Connecticut Historical Society announced the discovery of an important flag in its collection — one of five flags used to decorate the Presidential box at Ford's Theatre on the night of Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Donated to the society in 1922, the flag lay undisturbed and little-noticed for nearly seven decades.

Chief Curator Susan Schoelwer took NAVA members behind the scenes to trace the history-sleuthing that led to the rediscovery and authentication of this flag, its painstaking conservation, and its international celebrity, culminating with a feature article on the front page of the *New York Times* and an appearance on the Today Show!

*Image courtesy of Conn. Historical Society.*

## Generosity of NAVA 41 Sponsors Made Meeting Possible

The NAVA Executive Board thanks the following sponsors for their contributions to NAVA 41. Without their support, NAVA 41 would not have been a success.

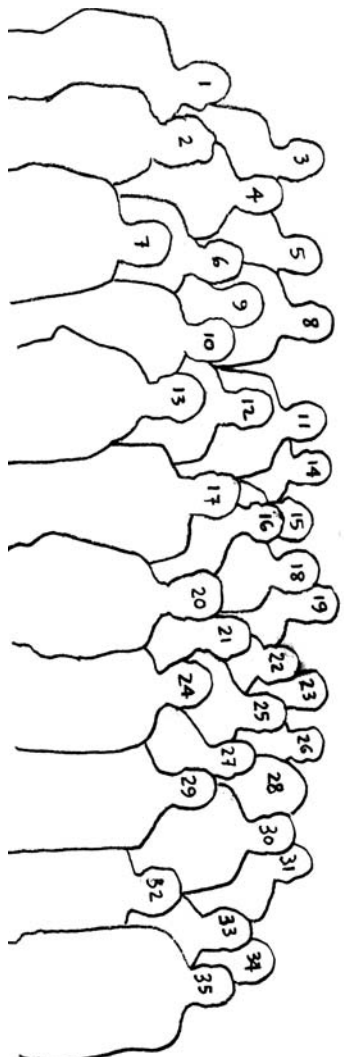
**Advertising Flag Company** for supplying the large meeting flags.

**Annin & Company** for producing the table flags.

The Board also thanks the following NAVA Commercial Members for underwriting the 2007 Captain William Driver Award:

**Advertising Flag Co., CRW Flags, Dixie Flags, Elmer's Flag & Banner, The Flag Guys, The Flag Shop, Herold Flags, Preservation Designs, Regal Flags & Poles, Six-Sided Simulations, and TME Co.**

# NAVA 41 — Hartford, Connecticut — 12-14 October 2007



Peter Turek [1], Dick Clark [2], Ted Kaye [3], John Purcell [4], Perry Dane [5], Charles Spain [6], Kevin Harrington [7], Roy McGinnis [8], David Ott [9], Jack Lowe [10], Jon Radel [11], Dick Libby [12], Bea Jones [13], Peter Orenski [14], Rich Monahan [15], Peter Ansoff [16], Matt O'Connor [17], Bill Trinkle [18], Robert Lloyd Wheelock [19], Martin A. Francis [20], Al Cavaleri [21], Carl Gurtman [22], Jim Croft [23], Gil Vegas [24], Michel Simard [25], Henry Moeller [26], Stéphanie Jean [27], Janet Martucci [28], Gary Randall [29], Hugh Brady [30], Dave Martucci [31], Joanne Couture [32], Roberto Breno [33], Diane Di Tomasso [34], Bernard Couture [35].  
Not pictured: Carita Culmer, Charles Helms, Hal & Marilyn Hitchborn, Tracy O'Brien Randy Smith, Whitney Smith, Gus Trachnia, Henry & Pete Van De Putte

## Breton Vexillologist Named 2007 Vexillonnaire for Native American Design

Sophie Rault, of Rostrenen, Brittany, France, was awarded the Vexillonnaire Award for 2007. The announcement was made at NAVA 41 in Hartford, Conn., by President Peter Ansoff. The Vexillonnaire Award recognizes a significant and successful act of activist vexillology, involving flag design or usage, in North America.

In 2004, Rault answered a call to design a flag for the Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations, in Spokane, Wash., an agency that helps Native American youth and families deal from the trauma of alcohol and drug abuse. The Healing Lodge serves tribes east of the Cascade Mountains: the Colville Confederated Tribes, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, and the Spokane Tribe of Indians in Washington State; the Nez Perce Tribe, the Kootenai Tribe, and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe in Idaho; and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation in Oregon.

Rault worked directly with the Healing Lodge for over six months to finalize the design. She documented her work in three vexillological journals: *Flagmaster* (No. 112, Spring 2004), *NAVA News* No. 183, and *Ar Banniel* (No. 24, Winter 2004).

Since its formal introduction in June 2004, the Healing Flag, now in its fifth printing, has become an inspiration to Native and non-Native peoples as a symbol of hope and healing. Widely accepted due to its pan-Indian symbolism, the demand for Sophie's flag for the past 18 months has exceeded that for any other tribal flag, according to Peter Orenski of TME Co.

Rault writes about the flag:

By combining the universal reach of the Four Sacred Colors with the physical perfection and spiritual energy symbolized by the Medicine Wheel, the Healing Flag reaches out to all Native Americans, offering beauty, spirituality and focused energy. Indeed, since redemption from suffering and the thirst for healing spirituality are aspirations common to of all mankind, the flag embraces all peoples.

I originally designed the Healing Flag to salute the work of an extraordinary group of people at the Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations in Spokane, Washington. This wonderfully caring Lodge dedicated itself to helping young people conquer the vicious grip of alcohol and substance abuse. Their example inspired me to spend months working with the Lodge, reading about its mission and discovering the beauty and strength of Native symbols.



TOP: The Flag of the Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations. LEFT: 2007 Vexillonnaire Sophie Rault wearing her medal. *Courtesy Sophie Rault.*

The newest Vexillonnaire is an active member of the Breton Vexillological Society (SBV/KVV), and designed the flag for NAVA 40 in Reno last year. Rault was not in Hartford, but her medal and certificate were delivered promptly afterwards.

"Thanks go to her for promoting good flag design and usage, showing that vexillology is a big tent," said NAVA Treasurer Ted Kaye, "and that it can accommodate a wide range of participation, from distant and necessary scholarship to hands-on work with flags themselves."

The Vexillonnaire Award honors the "engaged vexillologist"—someone who goes beyond the limits of descriptive study. The vexillonnaire becomes personally involved in a specific event of creating, changing, or improving flag design; promoting good flag usage or altering it for the better; or leading similar accomplishments in activist vexillology. The Award honors a vexillonnaire who acts with documented success, informed by sound vexillological or vexillographic knowledge, in a distinctly public manner.

Awards may be made annually. Past recipients include Peter Orenski, James Babcock, Ted Kaye, Douglas Lynch, Ed Jackson, and Tony Johnson.



## Artist morphs flags to explore meanings

Swiss-Luxembourgeois artist Myriam Thyès is advancing a very interesting “participatory art project” involving national flags. Her “Flag Metamorphoses” is collecting short animated films



## Virtual “Bear Flag Museum” Opens

NAVA veteran Bill Trinkle announced the opening of his website dedicated to the California Bear Flag: [www.BearFlagMuseum.org](http://www.BearFlagMuseum.org). It is a self-described “virtual museum of *all things* related to the California Bear Flag—history and chronologies, law, trivia, photographs, tests, cartoons, pins, art, apparel, old flags, drawings, and people involved with the flag”. “Since June 1846,” Bill explains, “shortly after first created, the flag has been called by that name, long before the state decided to adopt a flag, and before there even was a state. When California adopted the flag, it was with the language ‘The Bear Flag is the State Flag of California’.” Bill says “We are really starting to increase our traffic, getting linked to, and having friendly reactions from other museums and the like.” He asks fellow NAVA members to visit the site, comment on its development, and contribute items of interest.

for display on public screens such as in train stations. In the project, which is “continuously growing and animated by as many participating artists across the globe as possible, the flags of all nations in the world are morphed into each other through flash animation. Between each two flags, scenes appear showing an aspect of the two countries’ relations.

A visit to [www.flag-metamorphoses.net](http://www.flag-metamorphoses.net), her website, reveals dozens of short animations using flags in intriguing, clever, and amusing ways.

Renowned U.S. animator Joanna Priestley recently contributed a short film for which NAVA member Mason Kaye handled the sound. Entitled “Harmonic Convergence-Bulgaria-Mongolia”, in 30 seconds it transforms one flag into the other amid shifting symbols and music. Among the other animations are the history of the German flag, and “World Cup Fever”, featuring a football “jumping happily through all the flags of the nations participating in the 2006 World Cup, and moving the flag elements in blithely dancing shapes.”

“This work is an exploration into the meaning of imagery on flags,” Thyès said, “aiming to create interrelated associations through questioning, reassessing, fluidizing, and re-mixing of diverse national iconography.”

Among other venues, the animations were screened at the 22nd ICV in Berlin, Germany.



## Unique Flag Images (As seen on cover)

This amazing interpretation of numerous flags was created by an international award-winning photographer.

Purchase these photos on a variety of flag products, such as posters, framed prints, cards, shirt, caps, mugs, tote bags etc.

Visit the store on Cafe Press at:  
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Or from website:  
[www.henryfernando.com](http://www.henryfernando.com)



## The Flag of the “North American Union” Causes Stir

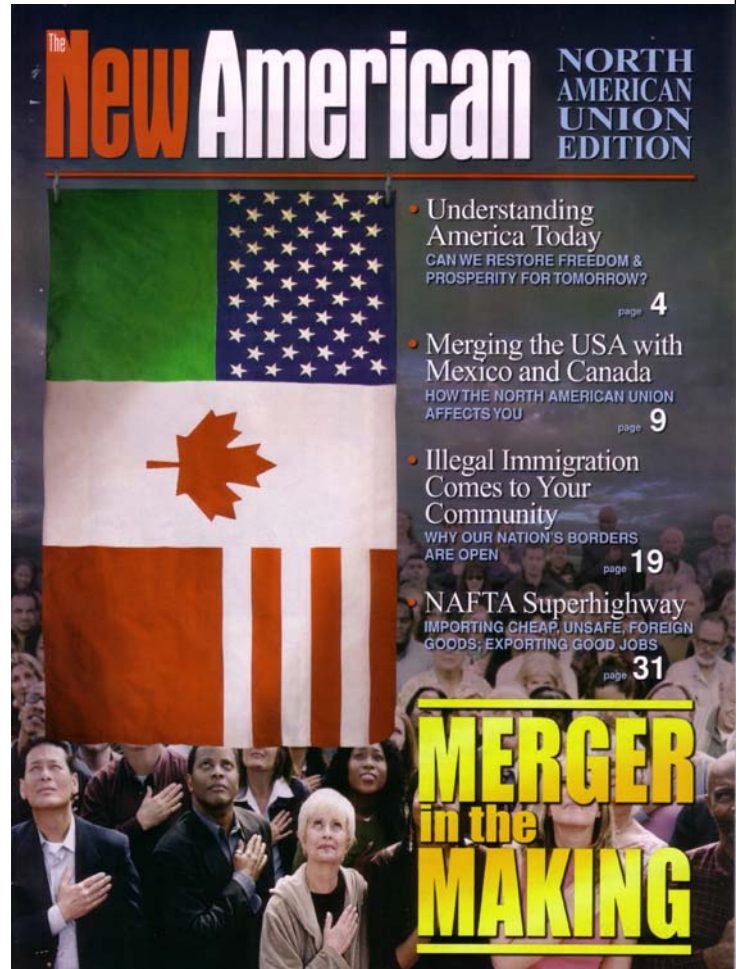
The conservative magazine *The New American* introduced a putative flag for the “North American Union” that it fears current U.S. policies are drawing the continent toward forming. In the magazine’s 15 October 2007 issue, editor Gary Benoit says, “As the artistic rendering of the flag on this magazine’s 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 United States, Canada, and Mexico. The upper half comes from the United States 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 measuring about 20 percent of the flag’s width and 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 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.)

“It has already raised eyebrows,” Mike reports. “Folks want to know what it is. And just to show how we think about the flag, people are immediately defensive to see part of

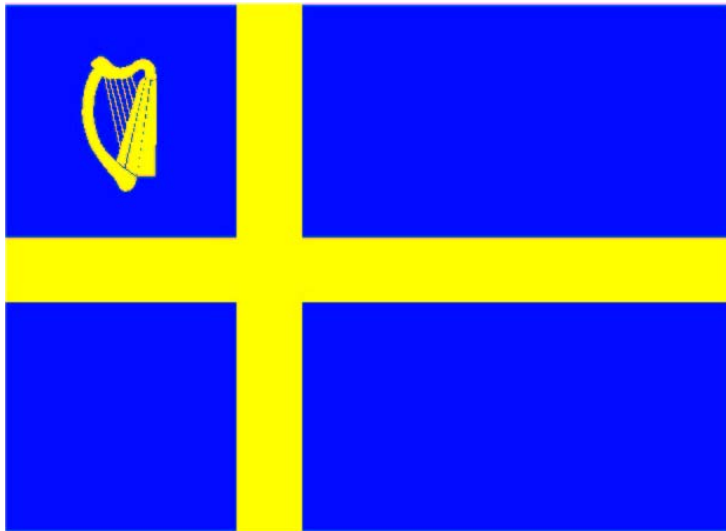


The Flag of the “North American Union”, on the cover of the John Birch Society magazine, *The New American*.

their flag included in a larger composite. They are immediately skeptical. When you say, ‘Well, it is a theoretical flag of the union of the three countries like the European Union flag’, they give you their opinion — which so far is 100 percent against or doubting the value of such a union.”

“I wonder how long the EU idea bounced around before it began happening?,” Mike asks, adding “it is fun to use a flag to advance an idea just for the sake of conversation, even if it is controversial. We may still see some people get angry and we’ll take the flag down and only ‘show it’. But for now it is an interesting experiment in patriotism, nationalism, economics, and political science.”

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



Flag of Timothy Lynch, Collingswood, New Jersey, U.S.A.

#### MEMBER FLAG

## Member's Flag Recalls Norse-Irish Heritage

Timothy Lynch's flag is based on the national flag of Norway due to the origin of the Lynch name. The colors yellow and blue correspond with the colors attributed to the Lynch coat of arms. The harp in the upper-left corner is taken from the flag of Leinster to represent Lynch's Irish lineage.

A member since 1994, Mr. Lynch's areas of vexillological interest are United States and military flags. He lives in New Jersey.

Members are encouraged to send in their personal flag designs for inclusion in the NAVA Member Flag Registry. Send your photos, drawings and descriptions to [navanews@nava.org](mailto:navanews@nava.org) or mail to: Member Flag Registry, 1977 N Olden Ave Ext PMB 225, Trenton NJ 08618-2193 USA.

## Honor Roll of NAVA Contributors

### December 2006-November 2007



NAVA gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions of its members and friends. Their support makes NAVA programs and publications possible.

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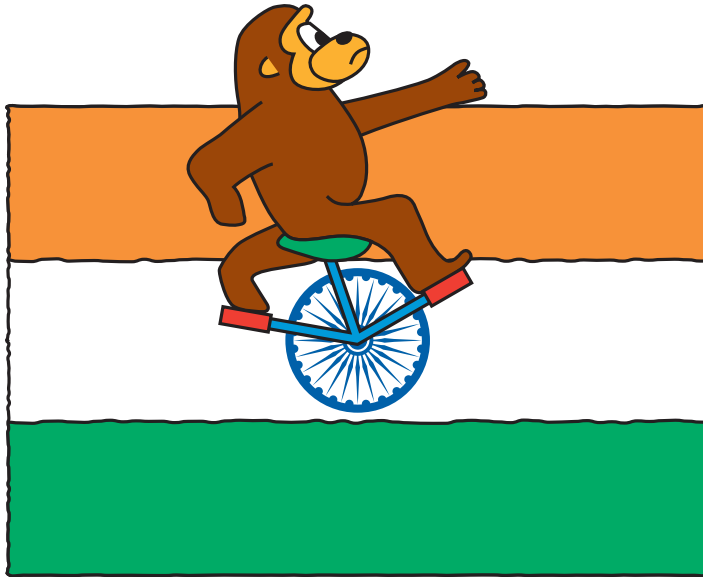
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**CONSERVATION FUND CHALLENGE:** The Chesapeake Bay Flag Association is challenging other North American regional vexillological associations to help raise money for the NAVA Flag Conservation Fund. At CBFA's November meeting, an auction of 19 flags and flag-related items raised \$317 for the fund. "We hope other organizations will do the same," said Jack Lowe, CBFA organizer. "The cause is an excellent one."

## CHUMLEY THE VEXI-GORILLA



Chumley the Vexi-Gorilla™ is the creation of Michael Faul, editor of *Flagmaster*, the distinguished journal of the Flag Institute in the United Kingdom.

To a field not often blessed with humor's grace, Mr. Faul brings a delightfully light touch, deep vexillological roots, and sparkling whimsy. This particular cartoon was suggested to Faul by an 8-year-old Indian boy.

## President: **Notable Efforts**

*continued from inside cover*

Several other projects could use a similar level of attention. One is planning future NAVA meetings. Our very successful Hartford convention was planned in-house; this worked well, but it involved a lot of last-minute efforts. We need a standing committee to look at future meeting prospects, consolidate and refine learning from past experience, and keep the balls rolling. Some groups have annual conferences scheduled years in advance — we could do it too with the right hands to take the initiative.

I hope that you read the comments in *NAVA News* 195 on the voting issue. We had a spirited discussion about this in Hartford. As I stated there, this is a bellwether issue with respect to the kind of organization that we want to be. I also said (and I meant it) that, if the electorate really wants NAVA to be an insular, meeting-centric "flag club," then I'll be asking you to choose someone else to be your president. We'll see how this evolves over the coming year.

We're continuing to sort out the *NAVA News* printing and distribution process. You will be reading this sometime in December, and we will be back on our publication schedule. Thanks to everyone who gave us feedback on when you received your *NAVA News* 194 — we'll be collecting the same information for 195 and 196 to streamline the process.

Happy Holidays! It's been a good year overall, and 2008 looks to be even better.

Flaggily,  
PETER ANSOFF  
President

## Member Passwords

NAVA members need a password to access the Members Only section of the NAVA.org website. To receive or renew your password, follow these steps:

- 1) Go to <http://members.nava.org> or Go to [NAVA.org](http://NAVA.org) and click on the "Member Login" link.
- 2) Enter your member number in the "Member ID" box.
- 3) Click on "Forgot Password" and an e-mail with your new password will be sent to the email address on record.

Alos, update your Member Profile and Member Flag. Email Shane Seivers, NAVA Webmaster, at [webmaster@nava.org](mailto:webmaster@nava.org) with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

## Call for *Raven* Articles

*Raven* seeks material for its 2008 volume. Articles should be 300 to 5,000 words and present new scholarly findings relating to flags. Send text and images on computer disk in Word Perfect or Word (no Mac) with images as separate jpeg files, along with a paper copy and any associated photographs or figures, to: Ted Kaye, *Raven* Editor, 2235 N.W. Aspen, Portland, OR 97210-1218.

Use a minimum of formatting and do not embed graphics. All articles are reviewed for acceptance by the *Raven* Editorial Board and may be edited for length, style, consistency, and clarity. Authors sign a publication agreement and copyright will vest in NAVA. The deadline for submission to be printed in 2008 is February 15, 2008.

## Mark your calendars!

**NAVA 42:** NAVA's 42nd Annual Meeting will be held in Austin, Texas, on 10-12 October 2008. Organized by the Vexillological Association of the State of Texas. Contact: Hugh Brady, [hugh@hughbrady.com](mailto:hugh@hughbrady.com).

**ICV 24/NAVA 45:** NAVA and the Chesapeake Bay Flag Association have been selected as hosts of the 24th International Congress of Vexillology. ICV 24 will convene in the Washington, D.C., area and will be held in conjunction with NAVA 45. Contact: Peter Ansoff, [ansoff@alumni.vanderbilt.edu](mailto:ansoff@alumni.vanderbilt.edu).

## Collector's Corner

NAVA Member seeks to expand table top flag collection. Has to sell or trade multiple copies of 4 by 6 inch flags including recently changed or expired national flags of USSR; Comoros; Georgia; and South Africa; Empire Brand preferred. Send me your list. Also have multiple VEX flag cards to trade, can complete your collection. I'm also looking for almost all flag collectibles, including flags, but especially flag cards or games. Please send inquiries to [vex@sixsided.com](mailto:vex@sixsided.com) or to Daniel Broh-Kahn, 17 Seven Springs Court, Phoenix, MD 21131

NAVA MEMBERS: Please send additional listings for "Collector's Corner" to the above electronic and postal addresses.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** We would like to thank Daniel Broh-Kahn for serving as editor of *NAVA News*. He will become a columnist as Hugh Brady serves as interim editor. Articles and other submissions can be set to Hugh at [navanews@nava.org](mailto:navanews@nava.org).



## Best Wishes for the New Year

The New Brunswick Flag flying from a house in Canmore, Alberta, overlooking snow-covered Rocky Mountains in Winter. *Karen Locke*



### North American Vexillological Association

1977 N Olden Ave Ext PMB 225  
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Thank you!