The engine room of the destroyer USS Turner Joy (DD-951). The Turner Joy is preserved as a memorial in Bremerton, Washington. She was one of the ships involved in the Gulf of Tonkin Incident in 1964, which led to the escalation of US involvement in Vietnam.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Local Chapters

Dear Fellow NAVA-ites,

Last month I had the pleasure of attending a joint meeting of the Chesapeake Bay Flag Association (CBFA) and the Great Waters Association for Vexillology (GWAV), held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It was a small and informal gathering, with lots of camaraderie. What struck me, however, was the extremely high quality of the presentations that were given over the weekend. I hesitate to single out any of them, because they were all very good, but I particularly enjoyed David Breitenbach’s talk on the flag of Chicago, William Belanich’s talk on flags and the Olympics, and John Purcell’s hilarious tales from his decades of research on Ohio civic flags. Kudos to CBFA member Jack Lowe, the driving force behind the meeting.

One reason organizations like CBFA and GWAV exist is because of a decision, made many years ago, that NAVA should not sponsor local chapters. As I understand it, the reasoning behind this was that vexillologists should be discouraged from organizing local events because such events might dilute attendance at NAVA’s annual meetings. In my view, this was extremely shortsighted, for a number of reasons. I think that we should do everything we can to encourage local and regional meetings—they bring new members and potential members into contact with the NAVA “mainstream,” and provide additional forums for exchange of vexillological knowledge. They also provide opportunities for NAVA members to interact even if they can’t afford the time and/or cost of jetting around the continent to our annual meetings.

In my last column, I said that we would be putting the proposed bylaws amendment for absentee voting on the web site. It isn’t there yet, mostly because of some non-flag-related life changes that I’ve had to deal with in the last couple of months. We’ll get it posted as soon as possible. Along with it will be a short poll, consisting of two questions: 1) do you support the proposal? and 2) Do you plan to attend NAVA 42? We’ll put the proposal to a vote in Austin only if this “straw poll” shows a substantial majority in favor of the change.

Meanwhile, our colleagues down in Texas are putting together a fine event for NAVA 42. It’s not too early to make your reservations, which you can do via the NAVA web site. Look forward to seeing y’all there.

Flaggily,

PETER ANSOFF
PRESIDENT

Call for Proposals/Notice of Meetings

NAVA 43: If you have a local group that might like to host NAVA 43 (2009) or NAVA 44 (2010), please contact NAVA President Peter Ansoff at pres@nava.org. He will send a sample proposal.

24 ICV/NAVA 45: NAVA and the Chesapeake Bay Flag Association will host the 24th International Congress of Vexillology. 24 ICV will convene in the Washington, D.C., area in conjunction with NAVA 45. For more information, contact: Peter Ansoff, pres@nava.org.

NAVA News

PETER A. ANSOFF, HUGH L. BRADY, EDWARD B. KAYE, JOHN A. LOWE, DAVID B. MARTUCCI
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Contact Peter Ansoff: pres@nava.org
MILESTONES

Welcome!

NAVA is pleased to welcome:


OBITUARY

So Long, Harry O.

Harry Oswald, a long-time NAVA membership committee member and co-chair of NAVA 42 in Austin, died 1 March 2008 in College Station, Texas. He had spent most of his time recently in Texas after living for years in Pendleton and in Portland, his home town. His career as a U.S. Marine and an engineer for the Oregon Dept. of Transportation was complemented by his passions for sports, grandkids, shooting, history, and flags.

In 1994 Harry organized NAVA 28 in Portland (he had special cards printed with the meeting’s flag and his car’s custom license plates read “NAVA 28”). Following that event, Harry founded the Portland Flag Association, with a quarterly meeting of Portland-area flag enthusiasts, but always attributed the success of the PFA to others, saying he was merely “the keeper of the list.”

Harry joined NAVA in 1988 and never missed a NAVA meeting or international congress of vexillology except once when he was in the hospital. He had a formidable collection of flag books from many countries. He savored the graphics whether he could read the text or not. Harry’s generosity was legend—his friends and colleagues around the world would frequently receive flags or books that he’d acquired on their behalf.

Among his scholarly pursuits were cannery flags of the Pacific Northwest—he gave a talk on the subject at ICV in Victoria, BC in 1999. Also, since Japanese signal flags were of particular interest to him, he helped organize the Japanese Vexillological Association. Nozomi Kariyasu, its president, told NAVA: “I am truly sorry to hear about a loss of JAVA’s godfather Harry Oswald and would like to sympathize with his family in sorrow. We cannot find any word to express our sadness.”

Former NAVA treasurer Peter Orenski wrote: “Harry was my dear friend and travel companion for many years; I miss him every time I look at a world map and I know he’d want say a special warm ‘Hello!’ to his many Japanese friends next year at 23 ICV in Yokohama.”
The Industrial Honor Flag
of the Third Liberty Loan

BY PETER ANSOFF

Several flags were associated with the Liberty Loan program during the First World War. The one shown in this contemporary poster is somewhat reminiscent of the flag of Puerto Rico. As explained in the poster text, the number of stars in the triangular union indicates the percentage of workers at a particular business that had subscribed to the loan.

There were four Liberty Loan issues during the war. The program, which Treasury Secretary William McAdoo described as “capitalizing patriotism”, involved a major marketing campaign to encourage the middle class to help finance the war by purchasing bonds. The third loan was initially issued on 5 April 1918 and closed on 4 May, and offered a total of $3 billion in bonds at an interest rate of 4.5%. The bonds were strongly promoted by politi-
cal and business leaders as a patriotic duty to support the war effort. In a speech on 6 April, President Wilson said:

“The people of the whole country are alive to the necessity of [the bond drive], and are ready to lend to the utmost, even where it involves a sharp skimping and daily sacrifice to lend out of meagre earnings. They will look with reprobation and contempt upon those who can and will not [subscribe].”

The employee newsletter of the Bethlehem Steel Company reported in its issue of 15 May:

“The Third Liberty Loan is a matter of history . . . The men in the shops became very earnest about having every one buy a bond, so that their’s [sic] might be a 100 per cent. shop [,] and when met by a refusal, forceful measures were used in a number of cases. As far as can be learned, the punishment of applied tar or oil or a ducking in the river was only used after derogatory remarks had been made by some man who did not give sufficient thought to what was being said. As a climax, a life-like effigy was hung by the neck to the flagpole near the main gate of the Lehigh Plant. It is reported that several of the girls in the offices screamed with horror at the sight, thinking that a human being was being strung up . . . Number six shop, not to be outdone, also had a hanging and the two figures swung by their artificial necks for several days.”

It sounds as if Bethlehem Steel’s flag might have deserved 9 or 10 stars!

References:

1 Special thanks to the staff of Kilroy’s Restaurant, Springfield, Virginia, for allowing us to photograph its copy of the poster.

2 Speech at the Opening of the Third Liberty Loan Campaign, delivered in the Fifth Regiment Armory, Baltimore: “Force to the Utmost”, 6 April 1918. From the American Presidency Project of the University of California at Santa Barbara, online at www.americanpresidency.com.

The first National Day of the Cowboy resolution passed in the U.S. Senate in 2005, setting aside 23 July 2005 as an official day for Americans to celebrate their western heritage. It has passed there three more times, and in 2008 it is also expected to pass in the U.S. House. Many governors also recognize the day with proclamations for their own states.

When I first began working on the Cowboy Day campaign, I became aware that at nearly all western events and in every rodeo grand entry, although there were many flags for sponsors and organizations, along with state flags and the Stars & Stripes, no flag existed just for Cowboys and Cowgirls. I began to imagine how it would feel to see a National Day of the Cowboy flag flying high at the Western Heritage Museum, the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, Little Britches Headquarters, a working ranch rodeo, a Cowboys of Color event, a Cowboy poetry gathering, or the Cowgirl Hall of Fame. Visualizing a mounted Cowboy charging into the arena at the National Finals Rodeo with a National Day of the Cowboy flag unfurled as his proud banner gave me chills, so I set to work designing a flag.

I knew that if done correctly, a National Day of the Cowboy flag could add a prestigious element to any western event and that such a flag could provide the missing symbolic link for all individual elements of the Western heritage and Cowboy culture movement, while also providing a common bond for individual enthusiasts. In an environment that typically includes so many flags, I knew too that we needed a flag that was crisp, bright, and uncluttered, so it
would stand out among the many other flags so often flying at western events.

The resulting flag was designed not so much to represent the National Day of the Cowboy nonprofit organization but to bring attention to the Cowboy Day resolution and to become a symbol of honor for the entire cowboy culture. I wanted a red white and blue flag, because although the love of the cowboy is an international phenomenon, it is our Cowboy—the American Cowboy—that is loved the world over. For that reason, that I chose the colors of the American flag.

Once incorporated, the National Day of the Cowboy organization had Latocki Team Creative design our official red, white, and blue logo, and placed it at the center of the flag design. Our slogan is “Preserve The Heritage”, so that too was included. In addition, I was determined that a Cowboy flag must be made in the USA. I looked for an American flag company that supported custom designs, and began working with US Flags in Florida to put our key elements together.

The first design included our logo and slogan screen-printed on a white nylon background bordered by a gold fringe, but that layout did not have much impact. I asked the designer to add red blocks with the stars embedded in them, at each end of the logo, but it was still not striking enough. When we extended those red blocks from top to bottom on each side, our 3 x 5 foot flag finally felt complete.

The presence of an official Cowboy flag at our Western festivals and Cowboy gatherings sends a visual message to the world regarding our heartfelt commitment to the preservation of our Western heritage. This flag continues to earn a place of honor as the overriding external symbol of our love for the myth and magic of our Cowboy and as a cherished symbol of our devotion to our Cowboy culture.

Displaying the National Day of the Cowboy flag is helping to build community among Cowboys and western heritage enthusiasts, but of course, only prominence and proliferation can build its stature and recognition. U.S. Senator Craig Thomas took the first step toward building that stature when he presented the National Day of the Cowboy flag to the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo Committee on 23 July 2005 in Wyoming. His wife, Susan Thomas, presented a second flag to the Cheyenne Frontier Days Volunteer Committee.

The National Day of the Cowboy flag is now proudly flown in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, New Hampshire, Texas, Tennessee, California, Missouri, Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, South Dakota, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, Indiana, Georgia, England, and even in Iraq and Afghanistan with our “Desert Cowboys”.

It has been carried around the world by a group of Western performers, and in May the National Day of the Cowboy flag was been carried up to the International Space station by astronaut Mark Kelly aboard the space shuttle…truly a historic moment where the old frontier has melded with the new frontier.

This is an impressive beginning, but our goal is to be able to report before 26 July 2008 (the 4th
Annual National Day of the Cowboy), that the red, white, and blue of the National Day of the Cowboy flag is flying in every state in the union and numerous countries around the world. We will continue to work to encourage its adoption as a unifying symbol of the professional and the amateur, the sponsor and the participant; and all who cherish, preserve, and enjoy America’s Western heritage.

The National Day of the Cowboy proclamation by the United States Congress provides an opportunity for those involved in the Cowboy culture and the preservation of Western heritage to fly a flag which signifies to the world that there exists a single unified group of people who actively support the preservation of America’s Western heritage.

It may be true that on a basic level, a flag is just a piece of cloth. But when the National Day of the Cowboy flag is displayed in a way that consistently honors our Western heritage, it holds the potential to become a national symbol that embodies and glorifies our deep love of America’s Cowboy culture.

Bethany Braley is the executive director of the National Day of the Cowboy organization. www.nationaldayofthecowboy.org

The Equality Flag

Ace Banner & Flag, a New York flag & banner manufacturer for over 90 years, has debuted the Equality Flag©. Its designer, Carl Calo, intends it to recognize that “We are all human beings and all deserving of the respect every person should expect and show to others”.

According to Calo, an equals sign of red over blue appears on a white ground. It is encircled by a paraphrase from the U.S. Declaration of Indepedence: “ALL PEOPLE ARE CREATED EQUAL – WITH THE RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS”.

He explains “Together they symbolize the idea that merit, fairness, and human dignity are values that should supersede all other classifications. The red stands for the suffering and bloodshed that divisions between people have caused throughout history. The blue stands for the loyalty to this idea that all human kind should share, and, the white symbolizes the purity of this basic concept.”

Ace Banner & Flag promotes the flag to be “displayed by anyone who wishes to express the idea that everyone should be treated with a dignity to which all people are entitled and not according to a particular group to which they belong.”

For more information contact Ace Banner at www.acebanner.com.
The Kumeyaay-Diegueño Nation

The Flag Shop, a stalwart NAVA member with locations across Canada, reports on the new flag of the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Nation, residents of the San Diego region for over 10,000 years.

The flag was first publicly unfurled at the Cabrillo National Monuments in Point Loma 29 September 2006 alongside the flags of the United States, Mexico, Portugal, and Spain, during the annual Cabrillo Festival. The logos on the flag represent the twelve bands which make up the Kumeyaay.

They are bordered by colors which symbolize the four directions of north, south, east and west—the basic tenet of native spirituality (although most native flags will use yellow instead of blue as the fourth color).

A committee of leaders of the region’s 12 bands approved the flag. “The intention is to provide recognition and acknowledgment of the fact that the Kumeyaay have been here since the Spanish arrived, and as a nation of clans and bands we’re still here,” said Louie Guassac, a Mesa Grande tribal member who coordinated the project for the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Unity Committee.

The idea for a flag came from Jamul tribal elder Jane Dumas, 82, who has taken part in the Cabrillo Festival since the late 1980s. At the opening ceremonies, Dumas prays in her native language and blesses the gathering with sage in a Kumeyaay spiritual tradition.

Source: http://flagshop.com/newflags.html

Euless, Texas and the Iraq War

A city of 50,000 in Tarrant County, Texas sent one of its own to war. On a plaque displayed under a Euless city flag in the Midway Recreation Center in Euless reads the following:

SSG Kyle Eggers requested a flag from Euless to be sent to him while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He wanted to fly the flag over his camp to represent how proud he was of his hometown, Euless, Texas. He was going to have the soldiers in his platoon and company sign it, then present it back to the city of Euless upon his return from serving in Iraq.

SSG Eggers never got the chance to sign the flag, as he was Killed in Action on December 5, 2004, in his honor his platoon fulfilled his wishes, by signing the flag and flying it over Camp Manhattan, then returning it to his parents, Keith and Diane Eggers, of Euless, Texas.
The two Governments declare that France and Great Britain shall no longer be two nations, but one Franco-British Union. The constitution of the Union will provide for joint organs of defence, foreign, financial, and economic policies. Every citizen of France will enjoy immediately citizenship of Great Britain; every British subject will become a citizen of France.

These words are not science fiction or alternate history. They were adopted by the British Cabinet, presided over by Winston Churchill, on 16 June 1940. The French under-secretary of state for national defence, General Charles de Gaulle, was present and gave his enthusiastic support. De Gaulle immediately translated the proposal into French and dictated it over the telephone to the premier of France, Paul Reynaud. An aide present when Reynaud received the call described the premier’s reaction:

“Finally he stopped and said into the telephone: ‘Does he agree to this? Did Churchill give you this personally?’ There was a moment’s pause and now he was speaking in English. It was evident that de Gaulle had handed the receiver to Churchill, who was assuring him that the document was a decision of the Cabinet . . . Reynaud put the receiver down. He was transfigured with joy . . .”

France was on the ropes. The Nazi blitzkrieg had smashed the defenses along the Marne, and the Germans had marched into Paris on the 14th. Belgium had surrendered and the British Expeditionary Force had been evacuated from Dunkirk. Reynaud’s appeal to US President Roosevelt for help had been rebuffed. The strategic choices were stark—retreat to a defensive “citadel” in Brittany, abandon France and continue the fight from Africa—or surrender. The union proposal was a last, desperate chance to keep France in the war.

Reynaud immediately summoned a cabinet meeting in Bordeaux to consider the British proposal, but he received little support. His ministers regarded surrender as the lesser of evils. Marshal Philippe Pétain called the proposal “fusion with a corpse,” while Minister Camille Chautemps stated that he “did not want France to become a Dominion.” Defeated, Reynaud resigned and was replaced by Pétain, who immediately opened armistice negotiations with the Germans through the Spanish ambassador.

On 3 July, a British naval squadron attacked the French fleet at Mers El-Kebir, near Oran in North Africa, to prevent the ships from falling into German hands. 1,200 French sailors died in the one-sided battle, half of them when the battleship Bretagne capsized and sank. In a memorial service, Admiral Gensoul said to his men, “If there is a stain on a flag today, it is certainly not on yours.” The Union was stillborn, and the alliance was broken.

But—what if Premier Reynaud had somehow prevailed over his colleagues? What if the surviving French forces had been evacuated to the French possessions in Africa, as urged by General de Gaulle? The land, naval and air forces of the Franco-British Union would have certainly needed flags and insignia—regimental colors, naval ensigns and jacks, and aircraft markings, among others.

THE CONTEST: Design one or more of the flags and insignia of the Franco-British Union. Entries will be judged on how well they successfully represent the fusion of the two nations’ histories and vexillological traditions. Along with the designs, contestants may submit background explanations including, if appropriate, assumptions about the organization and operations of the combined forces.

Entries may be submitted to navanews@nava.org, or by mail to the NAVA mailing address. The deadline for submissions is 30 September 2008. The winner will be announced at NAVA 42 in Austin. The winning entry, and possibly some of the runners-up, will be printed in a future issue.

References:

CONTEST CORNER

Alternate U.S. State Flags

In NAVA News 194, we featured the alternate state flags contest, where readers were asked to identify the state represented by each of 36 hypothetical flags created by NAVA member Clay Moss.

Sophie Rault, of Brittany, France, won that contest handily. In NAVA News 199, we will present the answers as well as an explanation of each design.

Last Issue’s Contest:
Which City Has Flown the Most Flags?

Nacagdoches, Texas claims nine national flags in its history. Readers, have you any candidates for cities having more than nine national flags flown over them? Send them in!

Please send your nominations, with the list of flags (and their years), to vex@sixsided.com by 31 July 2008. The winner will be announced in a future issue of NAVA News.

NAVA News wants your articles and other vexi-news from around the globe

Almost all of the content of NAVA News comprises contributions from our members and other members of the vexi-community. We’re always looking for short articles, news about members’ vexillological activities, photos, pictures, and descriptions of new and interesting flags, etc. If you’d like to submit an item for publication, contact the interim editors, Peter Ansoff (pres@nava.org) or Ted Kaye (treas@nava.org).

The publication schedule for the remaining issues in 2008 are:

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Don't wait—get started now on that article you’ve been meaning to write!
The Flag of the Connecticut 2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment...Thoughts on its History

BY PETER ANSOFF

Those who attended NAVA 41 in Hartford last October will remember our enjoyable visit to the Connecticut Historical Society. One of the flags that we saw there (below) was the historic flag of the Connecticut 2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment. This flag is well-known to students of vexillology and is popularly associated with the Revolutionary War.

Gherardi Davis examined and photographed this flag in 1907, and published the photos in his monograph on Revolutionary War regimental colors. The flag has since been restored, and looks much better than it appeared then. It was originally red, with white inscriptions. It bears the Connecticut arms on one side, with the motto on a scroll. The other side displays the words “2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment, Connecticut, Raised 1640.” Edward Richardson, in his *Standards and Colors of the American Revolution*, stated that the 1640 date was a reference to Oliver Cromwell, while Davis said “The 1640 probably indicates the date of some company of militia which later became the second regiment.” Davis is probably closer to the mark, but further research enables us to be a bit more specific about the date’s significance.

The Connecticut militia companies were first formed into regiments by an act of the General Court in 1739. Before that, the militias were raised and identified to individual towns—for example, the Hartford training band or the Weathersfield training band. What the Court did
in 1739 was essentially to group the existing training bands in each geographical area, and assign them regimental numbers. According to the Act,

"The military companies in the towns of New Haven, Milford, Bradford and Derby, shall be, and hereby are, made an entire regiment, and shall be distinguished by the name of Second Regiment."

The bands from the area around Hartford became the First Regiment, the ones around New London became the Third Regiment, and so on. The Second Connecticut militia regiment was thus formed from the local militias in the New Haven area.

Significantly, New Haven was not originally part of Connecticut—it was founded as a separate colony of New Haven, and was not incorporated into Connecticut until 1664. The first colonists arrived on the site of present-day New Haven in April 1638. The new colony’s governing body, the General Court, was organized in October 1639, and a colonial militia was organized shortly thereafter. Members were required to muster with the militia “under penalty of twenty shillings fine for every default or absence”. Since the militia organization began in the late fall of 1639, 1640 is a reasonable date for the official formation of the “train band”. As we’ve already seen, this organization was the ancestor of the 2nd Connecticut Militia Regiment that was established in 1739. It seems likely, therefore, is that this flag is color of the 2nd Connecticut Militia Regiment, and that the 1640 date refers to the original establishment of the New Haven colonial militia.

The actual story of this particular flag is a mystery that requires further research. It is believed that Col. John Mix, the state Quartermaster General, deposited the flag in the State Arsenal sometime before his death in 1834. (It found its way to the CHS in 1846). John Mix served in the Revolutionary War, but his relationship with the flag, if any, is unknown. The flag cannot be older than 1739, since that was when the militia regiments were formed. Assuming that the information about Mix is correct, it must have been made between 1739 and 1834. However, its association with the Revolutionary War is based on tradition, and does not seem to have any factual basis.

Some flag history books confuse this flag with the standard of the 3rd Connecticut Regiment. The 3rd Connecticut Regiment was one of the state regiments raised in May 1775 in response to the events at Lexington and Concord. Those regiments were organizationally distinct from the existing militia regiments. (In other words, the 2nd Militia Regiment had nothing to do with the 2nd State Regiment—they were two entirely separate organizations.) The 3rd Connecticut colors had no relationship to this flag, except that they were both red.

One hopes that future research will uncover more information about this very interesting and historic flag.

Notes:

4. Davis, p. 22
6. Ibid.
8. Davis, pp. 20-22, Richardson pp. 79-81. Richardson states that Mix was “Adjutant of the Second Connecticut Regiment” from 1778-1781. This was a Continental Line regiment that had nothing to do with either the militia regiments or the state regiments raised in 1775.
9. The colors of the Second Connecticut (State) Regiment were green, and those of the 3rd Regiment were red. See RCC Vol. 14, pp. 417 and Vol. 15, pp. 15 and 88. The 3rd Connecticut colors described in the RCC are often assumed to be what General Israel Putnam, the assigned commander of the 3rd Regiment, raised on Prospect Hill on July 18, 1775. The “New England Chronicle” of 21 July 1775 described that flag as follows: “…the standard lately sent to General Putnam was exhibited flourishing in the Air, bearing on one Side this Motto, AN APPEAL TO HEAVEN – and on the other Side, QUI TRANSTULIT SUSTINET.” The second motto is identified with Connecticut, and appears with the seal on the flag at the CHS. It is usually assumed that the General Putnam’s flag had the Connecticut seal also, but no contemporary source mentions this.
Preview:
NAVA 42

The Vexillological Association of the State of Texas invites you to join us in Austin, Texas from 10-12 October 2008 for NAVA 42. We think it’s highly appropriate that vexillologists meet in the Lone Star State’s capital in the year that marks the 75th anniversary of the 1933 Texas Flag Act, which officially re-established the Flag of the Republic as the State Flag of Texas.

The Convention Committee is currently hard at work finalizing arrangements, including selection of the convention hotel and tours of Austin’s flag holdings, primarily at the State Archives and the State Capitol.

The Archives hold flags and flag related material, the State Capitol holds the San Jacinto Battle Flag, and the Bob Bullock Museum holds both Texas and U.S. Flags from before the War Between the States to the present time.

Join us in Austin for a vexillologically-interesting weekend!

More at: www.nava42.org
contact info@nava42.org

NAVA Classifieds

Unusual collection of flag information and historical flags. The Flag Guys® www.flagguys.com
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NAVA Membership Anniversaries

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More at: www.nava42.org
contact info@nava42.org
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.

“Flag Days” in January
from In Search of “Flag Days”, by Steve Carol, p.14

Jan.  3 Myanmar (1974)
Jan.  4 Cook Islands (1979)
Jan.  6 Transvaal (the Vierkleur)(1857)
Jan.  7 Italy (tricolor)(1797)(Adopted in Reggio Emilia as flag of Cispadane Republic)
Jan.  8 Seychelles (1996)
Jan. 10 Ecuador (1861)
Jan. 11 Norfolk Island (1980)
Jan. 13 Bangladesh (1972)
Jan. 18 Honduras (1849), Schleswig-Holstein (1957)
Jan. 19 Nova Scotia (1929)
Jan. 20 Lesotho (1987)
Jan. 21 Quebec (1948), Ukraine (1990)
Jan. 23 Belgium (1831)
Jan. 25 Texas (1839), Republic of (S) Korea (1950)
Jan. 26 Republic of Mississippi (Magnolia flag) (1861)
Jan. 28 Serbia (1839), South Carolina (1861), Rwanda (“R” flag) (1961)
Jan. 31 Wyoming (1917), USSR (1924), Nauru(1968)

MEMBER FLAG
For all NAVA Members’ flags, see http://www.nava.org/NAVA%20Membership/FlagRegistry.php

Longtime NAVA member Phil Allen changes his flag every few years or so.

He explains this version: Light green field for slow healing; Red liver shape, the organ at the center of it all; “Toes are white, like mine; Four yellow “thought balloon” bubbles (humor & effort) plus one-half (nose); White bubble contains green focus-dream: a U.S. Dollar sign.

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 or mail to: Member Flag Registry, 1977 N Olden Ave Ext PMB 225, Trenton NJ 08618-2193 USA.

Flag of Phil Allen, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.
IN SEARCH OF “FLAG DAYS”

BY STEVE CAROL

Having flown flags daily for more than 30 years as well as having used them in the teaching of history (see NAVA News, July–Sept. 2006), I have always sought occasions to display them. The obvious first category is flying flags on the independence days of various countries. That information is readily available and a chart can be made to indicate those dates. The second most obvious, based on our own American experience, would be the grouping of flag days of various nations. It is well known that 14 June 1777 was the date that the Stars and Stripes was officially adopted by Congress as the U.S. national banner. But do other nations have “flag days”? This prompted my research project.

When we speak of “flag day”, it is assumed that the date in question was the day when a nation’s (state, province, or some other subdivision) flag was officially adopted by law by a legislature or some governing body. However research revealed that such an easy classification doesn’t always exist. Various terms and phrases are used to signify when a particular flag was adopted or became known to the public at large. These include: adopted, re-adopted, passed into law, introduced, reintroduced, announced, first hoisted, instituted, officially regulated, officially confirmed, officially hoisted, officially approved, formally confirmed, and proclamation of the flag.

Some nations have established a “flag day” by law, while many others have not. Several nations adopted their flags on the date of independence and so “flag day” coincides with their independence day. Some have a “flag day” different from the date of the flag’s adoption.

I have compiled a listing based on these definitions; a sample listing of the dates for January appears on page 13. The entire listing will be posted in the ‘Flag Information’ section of the NAVA web site. My listing does not include various national holidays, and events that are celebrated in many nations by prominent display of their flag, but rather tries to establish a preliminary listing of “flag days”. When a disputed date was encountered, I chose the earlier date. A more painstaking examination of individual nation’s archives may reveal additional information for a future researcher to update, modify, or correct the information.

Among the sources of my information were:


Wikipedia, (see separate nations) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page


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