Greetings

Dear Fellow NAVA Members,

The financial news is certainly grim these days and I hope that all of you are weathering any economic storms blowing your way.

It is heartening that, despite the tough times, our membership renewals are coming in at the same rate they did last year. I think this shows that you value your membership in this association and that it provides value to you. The officers, both elected and appointed, and members who volunteer their time and energy, have all worked to improve NAVA and its work. They deserve the lion’s share of praise for the improvements we’ve seen in the last few years.

While we do have a financial surplus, the lifeblood of this organization is its members. It seems like each NAVA News brings word of another member who has left this earthly plane. And while we sign up new members each year, our numbers have remained fairly constant—about 400. The Board recognizes that member recruitment is one of the major issues that must be managed on a constant basis. Secretary Bill Trinkle is chairing the Membership Committee and is working diligently on this issue.

But it’s not just a Board-level issue or task. I believe it is really the responsibility of all of us to help recruit new NAVA members. By talking with friends and colleagues who show interest in flags, we can each perhaps bring a nascent vexillologist into the fold. If each current member signed up just one new member this year, our membership would double! Something to think about, huh?

One new development: NAVA has a page on Facebook, the web-networking site. Just search for “NAVA” and click to join. It was launched by member Scott Mainwaring and is under the general supervision of Annie Platoff, Second Vice President, and questions can be messaged to her on Facebook or sent by e-mail to 2ndvp@nava.org. Of course, we still have the Yahoo chat group, which is run by Gus Tracchia, First Vice President. If you haven’t joined, contact Gus at 1stvp@nava.org for more information.

Planning is well along for NAVA 43 in Charleston, South Carolina. While travel plans might be curtailed this year, I think this is one NAVA meeting you won’t want to miss. The host hotel is located in the building that formerly housed The Citadel, the state’s military academy. Details will be made available as they are finalized—check the NAVA website; some are in this issue. It’s never too early to make plans, so don’t hesitate.

HUGH BRADY PRESIDENT

Contact Hugh Brady: pres@nava.org

Cover photo: The “new” Georgia State Flag flies “double” near Underground Atlanta.

Photo by Ted Kaye

NAVA News

PETER A. ANSOFF, EDITOR

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North American Vexillological Association

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MILESTONES

HALF STAFF

Woody Ridgway 1920-2008

NAVA’s past president Woodrow Wilson Ridgway of Lenexa, Kansas, died 8 November 2008. He was born in Bradenton, Florida on 29 May 1920 and served in the Army Air Force in WWII. He worked as a warehouse manager for the Shawnee Mission School District for more than 30 years, retiring in 1986. Woody’s passion was the history of flags.

After he retired, he worked for All Nations Flag Co. He not only was a collector (over 500 flags) but gave many presentations to community and civic groups. He particularly loved Flag Day, saying “I’m glad it’s not like Memorial Day or the Fourth of July. We already take too many days off work... Flag Day gives us a quiet sense of patriotism. No fireworks or bands. Just pride.” Woody joined NAVA in 1976 and served on the board as vice president, treasurer, and president (1987-89).

Past NAVA board members who served with him agree about his gracious role: Doreen Braverman calls Woody “a true mentor to NAVA members. This gentle person will be missed from the vexillology world.” John Purcell describes him as “an optimist with a big smile and a ‘can-do’ attitude. Never one to rush into anything, he took his time to do it right, examining all sides of an issue before moving ahead. A true gentleman, he went out of his way to be of help to others.”

Gus Tracchia remembers Woody as “a simple man who offered simple solutions. I met him during NAVA 15 when he was serving as acting president (Woody was VP) due to the illness of then-president Bob Gauron. His wife Helen, a diehard Yankee, was amazed that I, living in New York City, had never been at Yankee Stadium.”

And Carita Culmer recalls “Woody was ‘Mr. NAVA’ to me. He came to me at work one day and said the city of Phoenix had told him I was the ‘authority’ on the old city flag. We chatted, one thing led to another, and he invited me to tell my Phoenix flag story at NAVA 23 in Dallas. After that, when he wintered in Scottsdale, he would call, and sometimes we would get together. One time when I went over there, he showed me his latest flag project. He was making a series of historic American flags, by hand. The fabric was synthetic, and he was cutting it to size using some kind of electric scissors that heated and melted the cut edge, so it would never fray. Woody is the reason I joined NAVA.”

Woody was also actively involved in the Dwight Cowles American Legion Post and served as Post Commander 1976-1977. He was a charter member of the Antioch Church of the Nazarene. He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen, on 11 January 2008. Condolences may be expressed at www.amosfamily.com (The Amos Family Chapel of Shawnee, KS, 913-631-5566).

NAVA 43: The next annual meeting of NAVA will be held in Charleston, S.C., 9-11 Oct. 2009. To volunteer with the organizing committee, please contact Ted Kaye at treas@nava.org.

23 ICV: JAVA (the Japanese Vexillological Association) will host the 24th International Congress of Vexillology 12-17 July 2009 in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture. For more information, visit: http://yokohama.fiav.org.

NAVA 44: If your local group would like to host NAVA 44 (2010), please contact NAVA president Hugh Brady at pres@nava.org.

24 ICV/NAVA 45: NAVA and the Chesapeake Bay Flag Association will host the 24th International Congress of Vexillology in 2011. 24 ICV will convene in the Washington, DC area in conjunction with NAVA 45. For more information, contact Peter Ansoff, pastpres@nava.org.

Raven Honored

The Council of Editors of Learned Journals has selected NAVA’s Raven, A Journal of Vexillology, as one of its “CELJ Journals of the Month” for March 2009.
PART ONE

[Editor’s note: *NAVA News* does not usually publish such long articles. However, we felt that it was an important “on the spot” commentary on the vexillological aspects of a real-world political situation. We hope that you agree. Because of its length, this article will appear in two installments.]

The Context: “*the reality is elaborated through conventions...*”

Symbols, whether simple or complex, are expressions and manifestations of human activity. Since the end of the 20th century, Venezuela, in the northern part of South America, has experienced an authentic commotion. Symbols, particularly the flag, are once again triggering conflicting opinions, feelings, and attitudes. Venezuela is best known as an OPEC oil-producing country and for the beauty of its women. After 1958, when a civic-military movement overthrew the dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez (who had governed for six years after a doubtful plebiscite), Venezuela was a relatively stable democracy in continuous experimentation for the next 41 years.

The Antecedents: “*the reality could be product of Evolution... or the Revolution...?*”

Fifteen flags summarize Venezuela’s national vexillological history and her historical efforts to overcome the socio-political instability that characterized her existence. See the images on p. 5.

1. Primate (or Prime) Flag (1806): Tricolor created by Francisco de Miranda, consisting of a design which Venezuelan tradition affirms as three equal horizontal stripes of yellow, blue, and red (although the color order is different in some contemporary accounts). This flag, often called “Miranda’s Colors”, has an uncertain origin and was hoisted by him for the first time on Venezuelan soil in August 1806. Even though different explanations have been advanced for Miranda’s design inspiration, recent research tends to consider it an emblem of a political movement more than of a nation.

Widely recognized as the precursor of Latin American independence, Miranda was born 28 March 1750 in Caracas. A freedom fighter in the United States and Europe, he was the first Venezuelan and Latin American known worldwide. Venezuela’s Primate Flag was hoisted for the first time at sea on 12 March 1806 aboard the corvette *Leander*, the flagship of Miranda’s liberating expedition. The *Leander* had left months before from United States. Miranda dropped anchor on Jacmel Bay, Haiti, to obtain provisions and equipment, before arriving on the Venezuelan coast, but once there he failed to receive the expected popular support and had to flee. After continuing his fight for the emancipation of his native country and Latin America, he was captured by royalist forces and died a prisoner in La Carraca, Spain, on 14 July 1816, the 5th anniversary of the first hoisting of the flag of independent Venezuela.

2. Independence Flag—also called the Mother Flag (1811): Tricolor with unequal horizontal stripes from top to bottom, yellow wider than blue and blue wider than red. This flag had no stars, but displayed in the canton an emblem with a female Indian chief as its principal element. It was designed by a commission consisting of the deputies Francisco de Miranda, Lino de Clemente, and Jose de Sata y Bussy, by order of the Constituent Congress which signed Venezuela’s Act of Independence on 5 July. It was effective from its first hoisting on 14 July 1811 until 25 July 1812 when the Patriotic Forces surrendered to the royalists and Spain recovered total dominion over Venezuela and ended the so-called “First Republic”. It is called “Bandera Madre” (Mother Flag) as it inspired the current national flags of Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador.

3. Liberator Army Flag (1811-1819): The same design as #2, but without the emblem on the canton, which was omitted because it was difficult to embroider it on each flag during the war in 1811-1812. It was probably hoisted in 1813 during the so-called “Eastern Campaign” and “Admirable Campaign” (the second under Bolivar’s direct command). The Patriotic Forces left from New Granada (today’s Colombia) and ended in Caracas.

The Liberator Army Flag was also probably considered the *de facto* national flag, especially from 8 August 1813, when Bolivar announced the reestablishment of the Republic of Venezuela, until 11 December 1814 when the last patriotic troops evacuated the city of Maturin (in eastern Venezuela) and were dispersed, thus concluding
the so-called “Second Republic”.

During 1815 and 1816, the Patriotic Forces attempted to reorganize, initiating diverse campaigns by land and sea in which probably they continued using this flag whose connotations, considering the prevailing circumstances, was more military than geopolitical.

4. Navy War Ensign (1817): The Liberator Army Flag (#3) with the addition of seven blue stars arranged horizontally at the center on the yellow stripe, representing the seven provinces (Caracas, Barinas, Cumaná, Barcelona, Margarita, Mérida, and Trujillo) which signed Venezuela’s Declaration of Independence in 1811. The 1817 Navy War Ensign was decreed by the Provisional Congress of Pampatar (a town located in eastern Venezuela) on 12 May.

The concept of a navy flag probably followed Spanish naval traditions. The Congress, therefore, confirmed the 1811 flag (#3) for the army (the flag without the emblem on the canton) and established a flag for the navy, the Navy War Ensign with seven blue stars. Thus two flags then represented the Patriotic Forces of Venezuela.

5. Flag decreed by Simón Bolívar in November of 1817: The decree says: Simón Bolívar, Supreme Chief of the Republic, Captain General of the Armies of Venezuela and New Granada, having increased the number of Provinces that form the Republic of Venezuela by the incorporation of Guayana decreed last 15 October, I decree by this sole and unique article that: To the seven stars on the National Flag of Venezuela, one more will be added as emblem of the province of Guayana, therefore the number of stars will now be eight. Issued, signed by my hand, sealed with the provisional seal of the State and authenticated by the Secretary of the Office, on the Palace of Government of the city of Angostura, on 20 November 1817.

The addition of an eighth star on the yellow stripe of the Navy War Ensign (#4) established seven months before was intended to enlist the people of Guayana to the cause of independence and represent Guayana—then apparently and predominantly royalist—as an equal of other provinces. (The Province of Guayana included the modern Venezuelan states of Amazonas and Bolivar, plus “Guayana Esequiba”, an area currently disputed between Venezuela and Guyana).

Bolívar used the term “National Flag of Venezuela” without any explanation, although with his power as unquestioned leader of the Patriotic Forces, he may have considered the design of the Navy War Ensign (#4) to be a suitable basis for a national flag, and added the eighth star to it. However, between 1817 and 1819 the exigencies of war likely suppressed use of this design in favor of the Liberator Army Flag (#3), which was gradually consolidating its character and meaning as symbol of a new nationality.

Although by this simple decree Bolivar may have been defining a new flag for a Third Republic, two years later this flag, for all practical reasons and purposes, became obsolete when Gran Colombia was formed—at least on paper. Some historians believe that Bolívar’s flag decree was never really fulfilled.

Then between 1819-1830 Venezuela was part of the “República de la Gran Colombia” (Federal Republic of Great Colombia). During this period, tradition and reliable sources mention two flags:

6. Great Colombia Flag (1819-1821): The Constituent Congress of Angostura in 1819 decreed the “Fundamental Law of Colombia”, establishing in its Article 10: The arms and flag of [Gran] Colombia will be decreed by the General Congress, but it will temporarily use the arms and flag of Venezuela, these ones being better-known. In fact, most probably only the Venezuelan Liberator Army Flag (#3) was used, since the arms of Venezuela were in fact little-known.

The Mother Flag of 1811 (#2) had an emblem on the canton and later was probably incorporated into the Venezuelan coat of arms, mainly a free artistic version in a heraldic configuration which appeared in a bulletin commemorating the historic 1820 meeting between Bolivar and Pablo Morillo (the Spanish Field Marshal).

In 1819 the flag and arms of Gran Colombia were adopted, by the Constituent Congress of Cúcuta (a Colombian city). The flag was the Venezuelan Liberator Army Flag with the coat of arms of Cundinamarca—in which the most important element was a stylized condor—displayed in the center. The approval of the coat of arms is attributed to General Francisco de Paula Santander (Colombian hero of independence and then-vice president of Great Colombia).

However, how those became the arms of Cundinamarca remains unknown. Cundinamarca was the name adopted by New Granada (today’s Colombia) when it joined Venezuela in 1819 to form Gran Colombia. Quito (today’s Ecuador) was incorporated into this nation by an 1819 decree and in 1822 as a full member.
7. Great Colombia Flag (1821-1830): The Venezuelan Liberator Army Flag (#3) with a new charge whose central elements were a fasces (an axe reinforced with rods: symbol of ancient Roman senators) joined with a bow and arrows between two cornucopias oriented upwards, all in an oval with the inscription “República de Colombia”. The emblem was established by the Congress of Gran Colombia in Article No. 11 of the new Fundamental Law of Colombia, approved by General Santander on 1821.

8. Provisional Flag (1830-1836): After the dissolution of Gran Colombia in 1830, Venezuela adopted a design based the Venezuelan Liberator Army Flag (#3) with a provisional emblem, similar to that on #7, whose central elements were the fasces, bow and arrows, but with the cornucopias turned downwards all surrounded by the legend “República de Venezuela” in some cases and in others “Estado de Venezuela”.

9. Venezuelan Flag (1836-1863): In order to differentiate its flag from those of the late Republic of Gran Colombia, Venezuela retained the yellow-blue-red horizontal stripes but made them equal in width. It established two variants. The first, with the coat of arms in the hoist end of the yellow stripe, was for official use by the government and as war flag and ensign. The second, without the arms, was for civil and merchant use. Neither flag had stars. It is not known if Venezuela modeled its new flag after the Primate Flag (#1).

The national coat of arms adopted that year was the first precursor of the current arms: divided per fess, the chief per pale (two upper quarters and one lower) in Gules (red) with a beam of golden ears; Or (yellow) with a set of arms and flags jointed by a laurel crown all in their natural colors, and Azure (blue) with an Argent (white) horse regardant, having as crest a pair of cornucopias and as supports branches to both flanks jointed in the base with a bicolor pennant in Azure (blue) and Gules (red) with commemorative inscriptions in Or (yellow).

In 1859 the so called “Revolución Federal” or “Guerra Federal” (Federal War) was declared. In order to distinguish their forces from those of the government, the Federalists hoisted two flags:

10. Federal War Flag (February 1859): Decreed by those that initiated the Revolution, the same as the Civil Flag of 1836 (#9) but adding seven blue stars arranged horizontally on the yellow stripe—it may have been inspired by the Navy War Ensign of 1817 (#4) or the Flag decreed by Simón Bolívar (#5).

11. Federal War Flag (June 1859): Decreed by Ezequiel Zamora, leader of the Federal Revolution. That design had 20 blue stars arranged horizontally on the yellow stripe in two rows of 10-10, representing all the states in a future “Venezuelan Federation”.

12. Venezuelan Flag (1863-1905): Decreed by President Juan Crisóstomo Falcón at the conclusion of the Federal War, it was the 1836 flag (#9) with the addition of seven white 5-pointed stars centered on the blue stripe, arranged in staggered rows 2-3-2. Variants of this design were established, one for official use (with the arms in the hoist of the yellow stripe) and one for civil /merchant use.

13. Venezuelan Flag (1905-1930): Decreed by President Cipriano Castro, it was the 1863 flag (#12) but arranging the stars in a circle in the center of the blue stripe, with the same variants for official and civil/merchant uses.

14. Venezuelan Flag (1930-2006): Decreed by Congress, it was the 1905 flag (#13) but arranging the stars in a semicircle or arch—perhaps in reference to the crest of seven stars which unofficially crowned some representations of the national coat of arms, particularly since 1863—with the same variants for official and civil/merchant uses.

15. Venezuelan Flag (2006-): Also called the “Bolivarian Flag”.

In the figures on the next page, the color shades and proportions of the flags come from reliable sources, although it is very possible that historical artifacts may differ.

Note: the version of the Venezuelan Coat of Arms on the official flag of 1863 (#12) was itself “unofficial”: From 1863 to 1930 there was no official image, model, or graphic reference that described the national coat of arms. This is important since the horse in the current (2006) Coat of Arms was inspired by one “free” artistic version which appeared in 1863.

PART TWO will run in the next issue of NAVA News, along with the Notes and Bibliography. It will discuss how the current situation in Venezuela is writing a new chapter in the history of the national flag.
VEXILLOGICAL HISTORY OF VENEZUELA

1) PRIMATE FLAG (MIRANDA-1806)
2) MOTHER FLAG (1811)
3) LIBERATOR ARMY (1811-1819)
4) NAVY WAR ENSIGN (MAY 1817)
5) DECREED BY BOLIVAR (NOV. 1817)

6) GREAT COLOMBIA (1819-1821)
7) GREAT COLOMBIA (1821-1830)
8) PROVISIONAL FLAG (1830-1836)
9) VENEZUELA (1836-1863) OFFICIAL

10) FEDERAL WAR (FEB. 1859)
11) FEDERAL WAR (JUN. 1859)

12) VENEZUELA (1863-1905) OFFICIAL

13) VENEZUELA (1905-1930) OFFICIAL
14) VENEZUELA (1930-2006) OFFICIAL

15) VENEZUELA (2006+) OFFICIAL

HERALDIC HISTORY OF VENEZUELA

STAGES OF THE NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS (Selection)

1836
1863
1903
1930
2006
NEW FLAGS
Asheville, North Carolina

The Asheville Pizza and Brewing Company spearheaded a campaign in October 2007 to design an unofficial flag for the largest city in western North Carolina. Offering $500 in cash and $200 in pizza gift certificates, it received about two dozen entries. With the support of radio station WWNC-AM/570, more than 27,000 online votes were cast in the contest to determine six finalists, with another 2,000 or so choosing the winner. Jack Moon of Fairview designed the winning flag.

Voters had a number of strong designs from which to choose (see next column).

Asheville Pizza co-owner Mike Rangel plans to put the flag into production and offer it for sale. He dreamed up the idea in hopes that area residents would raise the flag at out-of-town festivals and concerts to promote the city.

Interestingly, a Wikipedia entry shows an already-existing flag for the city, reportedly used by the crew of the USS Asheville as its battle flag. The image depicted here was created using Microsoft Paint by a Wikipedia contributor “subman758”.

Asheville Alternatives

California Bear Flag 100

Peggy Rose, artistic director of the Bear Flag Museum, has designed the “Party Animal” Bear Flag to help celebrate the flag’s 2011 centennial.

Source: Asheville Capital-Times

Source: Radio Station WWNC-AM/570
**Walla Walla, Washington**

After almost a century-and-a-half without a flag, the city of Walla Walla, in southeast Washington State, is now vexilliferous after its city council adopted an official design for a municipal flag in November 2008.

“We haven’t had one that we knew of, though we may have adopted one in our 140-year history, but as far as we knew we didn’t have one; but now we have one”, said city manager Duane Cole.

The new flag carries the city’s seal on a blue background in proportions of 3:5. The city plans to fly its flag in front of city hall, the public library, the public works department, the municipal water facility, and both fire stations, Cole said. The flags will cost the city $175 each.

*Source: Walla Walla Union-Bulletin*

![City of Walla Walla Seal](image)

**Bedford County, Penna.**

Last March, NAVA member Todd Greenawalt earned his vexillographic spurs by designing a flag for Bedford County, Pennsylvania. The new flag was raised for the first time on 9 March 2008, at a celebration commemorating the founding of the county. The flag’s design was selected from among 35 entries in a contest organized by the Bedford Historical Society, and the prototype flag was sewn by Ella Bowman. This is believed to be the first time during its over-250-year history that “Mother Bedford” has had an official flag.

Bedford County was formed on 9 March 1771 by an act of the provincial assembly. It initially, comprised all of western Pennsylvania, an area of over 15,000 square miles. This area contained all or part of 32 modern counties of the state.

![Bedford County Flag](image)

The flag is patterned after a colonial-era military color, with the pre-1800 British union crosses in the canton. It recalls the Fort Bedford flag that was presented by the Duke of Bedford, John Russell, around 1759. The field is crimson, and contains a map of the county surrounded by a fimbriated keystone. The keystone and map are gold and blue, the colors of Pennsylvania. Surrounding the keystone are branches of oak and mountain laurel, tied together under the keystone. At the bottom is a scroll containing the words “Crown of the Commonwealth.” The keystone is a symbol of Pennsylvania, the “Keystone State,” and also represents Bedford County’s position at the center of the state. The branches represent the unity of the county’s diverse citizens in one community.

The ceremony also dedicated 9 March as the official Annual Bedford County Day. In remarks at the ceremony, Dr. Joseph V. Gardner of the Historical society suggested “that the Official Bedford County Flag be displayed at schools, businesses, public offices and elsewhere throughout the county, at least annually during the week of March 9th.”

Flag-Studies Updates

BY DAVE MARTUCCI

“What-the-Hell!” Pennant

This unusual flag originated in 1934 and was used by U.S. Naval Group China during the Second World War.

On the pennant’s hem, on the front, is inscribed: “This pennant was hoisted on 4 September 1945 on the Glen Line Building when that building was captured by the Naval Group China. The U.S. Flag, Chinese Flag, and Rear Admiral M. E. Miles’ personal flag were hoisted first by Lt. Cdr. Webb Heagy and Lt. S. I. Morris in order to signal the success of the operation.”

On the pennant’s hem, on the back, is inscribed: “This is an exact copy of the original ‘What-the-Hell’ pennant which was made on board the USS Wickes (DD-75), Lt. Cdr. R. U. Hyde ’17, Commanding, and Lt. M. E. Miles, Exec. - August 1934. The original was carried by its designer to the USS John D. Edwards (DD-216) and used in China by Lt. Cdr. M. E. Miles when his ship was ordered to Hainen Island to witness that island’s capture on 14 Feb. 1939. See account in Saturday Evening Post, 10 Nov. 1945.

“This insignia used as shoulder patch by U.S. Naval Group China as a shipping designator for SACO supplies in China, 1942-1945. This pennant presented to Rear Admiral M. E. Miles at Shanghai, 4 September 1945 at #2 Peking Road.”

Miles commanded the U.S. Naval Group China, the American Navy’s intelligence unit in China during the war.

Collection of Vice Admiral Milton E. Miles, USN
U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph

CONTEST CORNER

In honor of the presidential inauguration, we are pleased to share some flag trivia from All the Presidents’ Trivia (available on Amazon.com), courtesy of the author, Peter Yorke Wrench.

Questions:
1. Which president’s image appears on a state flag?
2. Who signed the law stating that a new star would be added to the flag on the 4th of July following the admission of a new state?
3. Which president received the first flag to be carried aloft above US soil?
4. Which president initiated the tradition of flying the U.S. flag from public buildings?
5. Which president first ordered the U.S. flag to fly over the White House and over every school?
6. Which president first displayed the official presidential flag?
7. Who ordered that perpetually illuminated U.S. flags encircle the Washington Monument?
8. Which president’s corpse was draped in the Confederate flag before being buried?
9. Which royal emblem incorporated the U.S. flag?

Answers:
2. James Monroe (1825), and that they fly day and night, in Executive Order #4064.
4. Benjamin Harrison (1889), by Executive Order #2390.
5. Benjamin Harrison (1889), “A new flag flies each and every day at the White House.”
8. John Tyler’s (1862), and that they fly day and night, in Executive Order #4064.
9. Yap’s.

U.S. Naval Historical Center Photograph
**U.S. National Air Insignia**

In *Raven*, vol. 7 (2000), John H. Gamez in his article “The Evolution of the U.S. National Air Insignia: 1861-Present” wrote that “On 15 May 1942, the red central disk was removed from the national air insignia to keep nervous anti-aircraft gunners from confusing the American insignia with the Japanese ‘Hinomaru’ national air insignia” (see photo of a P-51 Mustang taken in 1942).

While true as far as it goes, it now appears that this is not the whole story. Recently I came across a photo of a war worker putting the finishing touches on the National Air Insignia on a newly completed bomber about to be delivered to the Army Air Force in 1943. Note the red ball in the center of the insignia.

While researching Civil Air Patrol symbols, I read that in May 1942 the Air Force authorized the removal of all red elements in the air insignia only on planes deployed to any combat zone. This was in keeping with the current practice of the AAF to avoid confusion with the Japanese emblem.

This explains the use of the insignia in 1943 with the red ball on a plane situated in the United States. What is not clear is when the symbol with the red ball in the center was finally abandoned.

One further update.

I also came upon a photo of the airship ZR-1 in 1923 showing slightly different markings than described in the *Raven* article. This ship had a marking on the top of the fuselage as well as on the sides. Note that the side marking is oriented so that the star “points” toward the front of the airship.

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**Air Mail Service Flag**

On 15 May 1918 the U.S. Post Office Department began the nation’s first regularly-scheduled air mail service. The first three months of the service were directed by the department using Army Air Corps pilots and borrowed airplanes. On 12 August the army pilots were replaced by post office pilots.

The first air mail flag displayed the symbol of this early air mail service, a pair of wings on either side of a globe bearing the phrase “U.S. AIR MAIL”. While the service’s reach that May morning in 1918 was limited to trips between Washington, Philadelphia, and New York, the service’s symbol indicates the department’s intentions to develop the service not only nationally, but internationally as well.

*source: US Postal Service website*

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**Flag Humor from Europe**

*In response to recent flooding in Italy, the putative “flag of Rome under water”...courtesy of NAVA member Roberto Bicci.*
Contest Corner: The Franco-British Union

In issue 198, we proposed a contest to design flags for the Franco-British Union, assuming that the aborted 1940 proposal to create such a union had gone forward. We received entries from NAVA members Secundino Fernandez, Ted Kaye, and Javier A. Hernandez, who submitted 16, 5, and 3 entries, respectively. To provide a balanced look, we selected what we judged to be the best three contributions from each.

Mr. Fernandez’s entries were variations on geometrical combinations between the two flags:

![Flags](image)

While all are attractive, each presents potential political issues. 1 and 3 favor one of the constituent nations by putting the British flag in the superior location. Number 2 avoids this pitfall, very cleverly combining the Union Flag and the Tricolor, but the coloring of the “Irish saltire” is a problem. Changing the segment in the lower-left quadrant to blue would be more consistent with the overlay of the tricolor, but would also dilute the symbolism of the St. Patrick’s cross.

Mr. Kaye proposed a variety of concepts:

![Flags](image)

Number 4 is intriguing in that it captures the essence of both flags, while not privileging one over the other. It is reminiscent of tail-flash designs used by British Airways and Air France. Number 5 is similar to Number 2, but takes a different approach to combining the Union Flag and the Tricolor. Number 6 uses a unique symbol of France and recalls British Governor-Generals’ flags.

Mr. Hernandez presented a different and unique approach, introducing Normandy as a symbolic go-between:

![Flags](image)

According to Mr. Hernandez’s descriptions:

In Number 7 a cross of Normandy (red and yellow) creates four cantons, two cantons with the British flag and two cantons with the French flag. Number 8 also incorporates the flag of Normandy, but a St. George’s Cross creates the four cantons, the upper hoist canton is the flag of Normandy. Number 9 only utilizes red, white, and blue—the only colors on the British and French flags. This flag represents the unity, brotherhood, and equality of both the French and British nations.

The use of the Norman symbolism is novel, but that might have been a double-edged sword. Many on both sides of the Channel/Manche would probably have viewed Normandy as a historical matter of contention between the two nations, rather than a basis for unity.

General Comments:

It was surprising that none of the entries considered the concept used by the Swedish-Norwegian union, with distinctive fields and a common canton/jack. Also, none really addressed the differences in approach between British and French naval flags: Britain’s use of the jack in the canton of the ensign, and France’s use of the same design for both ensign and jack. Once suspects that naval operations would have been a major component of the war effort of the Franco-British Union; a common naval ensign would have been an important issue.

The original contest announcement did not specify a prize, and it seemed rather pointless to pick an arbitrary winner with so few entrants. Congratulations and well done to all three entrants for putting a lot of thought and effort into their designs. You gave us a very interesting look at the vexillological consequences of what might have been!
**NAVA News** · No. 201 · January-March 2009 · 11

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

**NAVA Finances: Strong Surplus and Generous Support**

In 2008, after a substantial and unusual surplus in the previous year (due to the timing of membership dues payments), NAVA ran another surplus, exceeding our budgeted goal of breaking even. We are in solid financial shape with strong reserves which provide a cushion against down times and a small flow of interest income to support our programs.

**2008 Results**

There were several reasons for last year’s results:
1) NAVA 42’s success delivered a surplus,
2) Contributions from generous donors helped underwrite several NAVA programs.

These successes were partially offset by:
3) A larger-than-usual *Raven* volume 15 and costs associated with colorizing past volumes.
4) NAVA continuing its commitment to worldwide vexillology by sending copies of its publications to FIAV member organizations overseas.

**2009: A Budgeted Surplus**

The 2009 budget (approved by the budget committee and the board, and adopted at the 2008 NAVA annual meeting in Austin) calls for income and expenses resulting in balanced budget—in fact, a surplus, as we’ve provided for a contingency as well. In essence it’s a conservative, steady-state budget.

**Current Challenges**

Maintaining and growing membership in a difficult economic climate means that NAVA should call on all members to help recruit and retain fellow flag-enthusiasts.

As NAVA members continue and increase their volunteer services, our organization will remain vital and less dependent on outside vendors.

Contact Ted at treas@nava.org or any board member with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

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**NORTH AMERICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

**Budget Summary**

(U.S. Dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUDGET</strong></td>
<td><strong>ACTUAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>BUDGET</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dues</td>
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<td>12,343</td>
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<tr>
<td>Driver Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misc Sales</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions - Gen'l</td>
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<td>902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contr. - Cons. &amp; Res.</td>
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<td>1,025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions - <em>Raven</em></td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAVA Meeting</td>
<td>6,000</td>
<td>8,970</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>21,475</td>
<td>24,976</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **EXPENSES** | | |
| **Publications** | | |
| **NAVA News** | | |
| Layout | --- | --- | --- |
| Printing | 6,800 | 6,093 | 6,800 |
| Mailing | 1,500 | 2,611 | 1,500 |
| **Total** | 8,300 | 8,704 | 8,300 |
| *Raven* | | |
| Layout | 1,500 | 2,350 | 1,800 |
| Printing | 2,500 | 2,630 | 2,500 |
| Mailing | 500 | 759 | 500 |
| **Total** | 4,500 | 5,739 | 4,800 |
| **WEBSITE** | 350 | 218 | 350 |
| **DIRECTORY** | 50 | --- | 50 |
| Meetings (Annual Mtg.) | 6,000 | 6,346 | 6,000 |
| **Administration** | | |
| Post Office Box | 450 | 457 | 450 |
| Mailings/Office Post. | 500 | 96 | 500 |
| Supplies | 200 | 210 | 200 |
| Bank Fees | 300 | 204 | 300 |
| Telephone | 75 | --- | 75 |
| Driver Award | 250 | 250 | 250 |
| Trans. to Cons. & Res. | --- | 1,025 | --- |
| Contingency | 500 | --- | 500 |
| **Total** | 2,275 | 2,242 | 2,275 |
| **TOTAL EXPENSES** | 21,475 | 23,249 | 21,775 |
| **SURPLUS (DEFICIT)** | - | 1,727 | - |
| **UNRES. FUND BALANCE** | 29,725 | 31,452 |
The Golden Flag:
The 50-Star US Flag at 50 Years

On 4 July 2010, the 50-star flag of the United States turns 50 years old. This flag is already the longest-serving American flag in history. To commemorate its “golden anniversary”, I am proposing that we petition Congress to authorize and recognize, for one year’s time, that an American flag identical to the current flag with 50 golden stars be seen as an “official” American flag, alongside the current flag.

I believe this would bring attention to the long service of the “Moon Flag”, this 50-star version. There is a precedent for this: the 19th-century “Union National Color” utilized golden stars (see http://www.tmealf.com/digital/f-Union%20National%20Color-SPEC.jpg).

If you’re interested in working with me to get this done, please contact me.

With a salute to the flag of the USA!

Edward J. Mooney, Jr., MA
4838 Vitrina Lane
Palmdale, CA 93551 USA
Flags@EdwardMooney.com

Dues Reminder!

NAVA memberships run on a calendar basis, no matter when in a year a member joined. All dues are payable 1 January for the full year; memberships lapse on 31 March if dues are not paid. Please check your mailing label—it shows the year through which your dues are paid. You can pay your NAVA membership dues via www.PayPal.com to treas@nava.org or by check to the NAVA P.O. Box.

NAVA E-Mail

Did you know? NAVA sends out periodic e-mail messages with timely information about flags and flag-related matter. To receive them, just update your member profile in the Members Only section of the NAVA website and check the box under NAVA Publications: “I want to receive flag news by email”.

NAVA members need a password to access the Members Only section of the NAVA.org website. The Members Directory there is very useful. To receive or renew your password:

1) Go to http://members.nava.org or Go to NAVA.org and click on “Member Login”.
2) Enter your member number in the “Member ID” box (it’s on your mailing label).
3) Click on “Forgot Password?” and an e-mail with your new password will be sent to the email address on record.

You can also update your Member Profile and Personal Flag. E-mail Shane Sievers, NAVA webmaster, at webmaster@nava.org with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

NAVA Classifieds


For sale: sheet of 50 US state flags on postage stamps issued at 1976 bicentennial, 38 small flags on silk from B.D.V. cigarettes, 1900? to 1935?, 2 flag books, and a collection of dozens of Flag Bulletins, and some 4 inch by 6 inch flags.

For details, email or call Hubert Frick at hubster@clearwire.net or 206-322-2808.

NAVA News wants your articles and other vexi-news from around North America

Nearly 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’ vexillogical activities, photos, pictures, and descriptions of new and interesting flags, etc. If you’d like to submit an item for publication, contact the editor, Peter Ansoff, at navanews@nava.org. The publication schedule is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue No.</th>
<th>Deadline for Submissions</th>
<th>Approximate “In the Mail” Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>202</td>
<td>30 April . . .</td>
<td>20 June 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>203</td>
<td>31 July . . .</td>
<td>20 September 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>204</td>
<td>31 October .</td>
<td>20 December 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Don’t wait—get started now on that article you’ve been meaning to write!
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.

NAVA News is repeating some vintage Chumley flags that previously appeared in black-and-white.

MEMBER BURGEES

Dr. James C. Acheson—Lighthouse Point, Fla.
Designed in the mid-1960s, the house flag for Acheson Charters, Ltd. features a 'Y' design from the burgee of the Lackawanna Power Squadron. Black and yellow from the company’s house colors, red used simply to add color. Used on the Yacht 'Lady J.'

Mr. Ernest E. Aitchison, Esq.—Orland Park, Ill.
Videlicit: Argent, an eagle with two heads displayed Sable, charged on the breast with an annulet Or, accompanied by a dexter flank indented Vert, charged with a lamp of learning between two spur-rowels, one in chief and another in base, all of the Third, all within a bordure chequy Argent and Vert. Registered and designed by the Court of the Lord Lyon, King of Arms.

Sr. José C. Alegría—Gijón, Asturias SPAIN
Represents a special interest in burgees. White with a green St. Andrew’s cross, 1/6 the height in width. In many forms this cross, like the Burgundy cross, has been a traditional symbol of Spain at sea. Green is his favorite color.

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

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

Plan to attend the 43rd Annual Meeting of the North American Vexillological Association in historic Charleston, South Carolina. We plan an exciting flag-filled program. Full details on www.nava.org.

CALLING ALL VEXILLOGRAPHERS!
Help design the NAVA 43 meeting flag. Please e-mail your submission(s) to Hugh Brady pres@nava.org by 30 April 2009. Include your name, address, telephone number, and email address if available. If you prefer to send a hard copy of your design, mail it to arrive before 30 April 2009 to Hugh Brady: P.O. Box 13132, Austin, TX 78711. See www.nava.org for past designs.

REGISTRATION
A registration form is enclosed with this NAVA News, and is available on the NAVA website: www.nava.org. 
Early-bird registration is only $135.

Watch these Deadlines:
NAVA 43 flag design—30 April 2009
Early-Bird registration—31 May 2009
Papers/Displays, concept—30 June 2009
Hotel reservation—9 August 2009
Regular registration—31 August 2009
Papers/Displays, final—31 August 2009

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Visit flag-filled museums on the Museum Mile and hear more Vexi-Bits than ever, enjoy a banquet and a talk on the Eutaw Flag and the camaraderie of fellow NAVAns.

HOTEL:  Embassy Suites—Historic Charleston
337 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29403.
A block of suites has been reserved through 9 August 2009 for the nights of 9/10/11 October. The rate is $179/night plus tax for the two-room suites. Other nights at the same rate while available.

Reserve at www.embassysuites.com or 843-723-6900 / 1-800-embassy. The group code for NAVA 43 is “NAV”.

To offset the higher-than-usual room rates, we have lowered the registration fee. We also encourage attendees to room together—the two-room suites make that easier.

SUBMITTING PAPERS & DISPLAYS
If you wish to present a paper or set up a display at NAVA 43, please mail the following information to First Vice President Gus Tracchia by 30 June 2009: 1) Your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address if available; 2) Title of your paper, presentation, symposium, workshop, or display; 3) Abstract of your paper, presentation, symposium, workshop, or display; 4) Type and size of display area and/or equipment needed, including tables, electrical requirements, audio/visual equipment, etc. 5) Notice if you decline to have your paper considered for the Captain William Driver Award.

Please send a complete copy of the paper (in publishable form in both hard-copy and electronic file in MS-Word with high-resolution image files) by 31 August 2009 or it will be deleted from the program. SEND TO: Gus Tracchia, 82-67 Austin St #205 Kew Gardens, NY 11415 (718) 847-2616 e-mail: vp1st@nava.org

North American Vexillological Association
1977 N. Olden Ave. Ext. PMB 225
Trenton, NJ 08618-2193 USA
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CHECK YOUR LABEL!
If the “Paid Through” date is 2008 or earlier, it’s time to renew for 2009. Pay your NAVA membership dues via www.PayPal.com to treas@nava.org or by check to the NAVA P.O. Box. Thank you!