



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

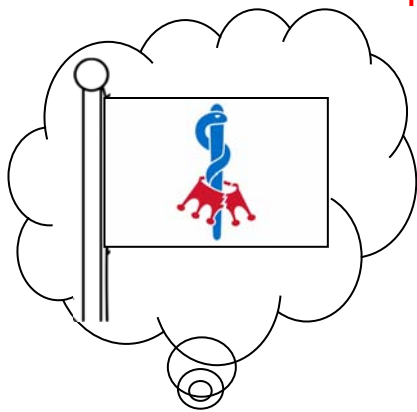
“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 87 April 2021

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www.portlandflag.org



Wind is the cheapest advertising medium a king, general, pope, or president could ever ask for—and flags offer the means to use this advertising.
— Tad Wise, "Blessings on the Wind"

Pandemic Repercussions

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, which has upended so many aspects of our social fabric across the world, has also impacted flag-studies groups.

The Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques (FIAV) has just announced that its 29th biennial International Congress of Vexillology (ICV29), planned for Ljubljana, Slovenia, in July 2021, will slip to July 2022, and that ICV30 in Beijing will slip to 2024.

The Portland Flag Association last met in person in March 2020 (and that saw an abbreviated group of 6 participants). So we have now gone a year with our bi-monthly meetings held virtually, via Zoom.

The North American Vexillological Association (NAVA) pivoted to a virtual annual meeting in 2020 (in an incredible 2 months' time), and will again hold its annual meeting in 2021 on a virtual platform.

The silver lining to the conversion of in-person events to virtual has been two-fold: a recognition that effective vexillological information sharing can take place in a virtual

setting, and a broad expansion of the number of people who can participate in such events. Over 140 members attended NAVA 54 in Cyberspace in 2020, compared to about 50 who normally attend in person.

NAVA has launched an ambitious program of virtual Interest Area Meetings, where members create their own programming on a wide variety of topics. Recent meetings have covered Historical Flags, Flags in Fiction, and Flag Design.

The PFA's virtual meetings have attracted a growing number of participants from outside of the Portland area, a development impossible before, due to the constraints of geography. The only issue for some appears to be time zone differences, but despite those, our March meeting drew from California, Pennsylvania, New York, Croatia, and Australia.

This pandemic may well have helped elevate participation in flag-studies events to an entirely new level.

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

March 2021 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our March meeting, held again on Zoom because of the COVID-19 shutdown, 17 PFA members and out-of-town (and -country!) guests enjoyed three hours of flags and video conversation. Ted Kaye moderated the meeting.

We welcomed Graham Houser and Geoff Kunkle as new members, as well as distance guests Phil Allen (Berkeley, Calif.), Ralph Bartlett (Melbourne, Vic., Australia), Al Cavaleri (New Windsor, N.Y.), Bard Cosman (La Jolla, Calif.), and Chris Maddish (Lansdale, Penn.), plus a surprise late visit by Željko Heimer (Zagreb, Croatia).

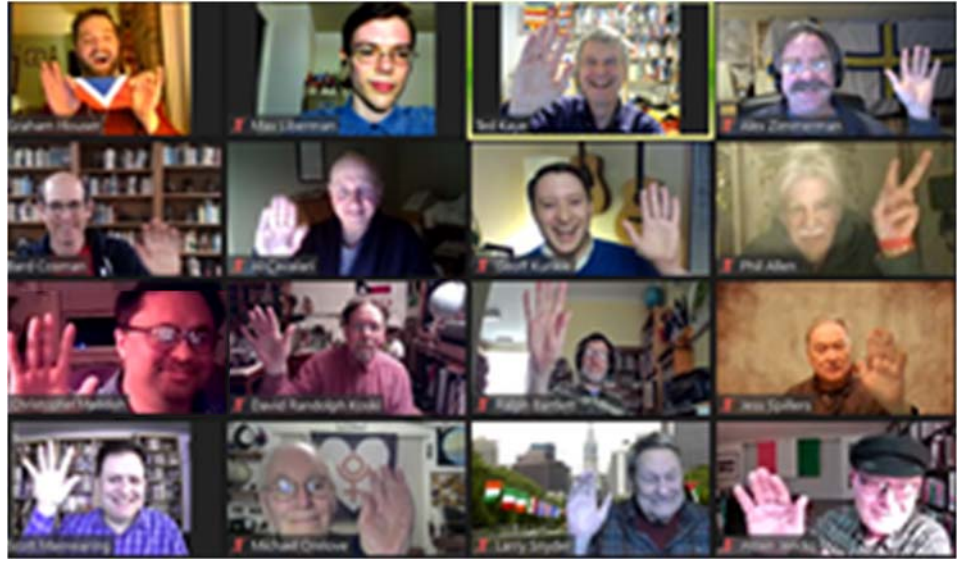
Michael Orelove took participants on a tour of the solar system through flags—starting with flags showing the Sun and Moon and proceeding from Mercury to Pluto.



Michael Orelove explains the flag for Pluto, designed by Scott Mainwaring (see p. 6).



Alex Zimmerman distinguishes Norrland from Sweden-Finland.



PFA members and guests celebrate flags in a three-hour-long conversation.

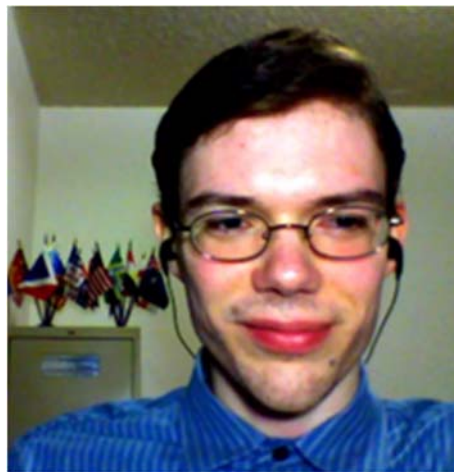
Alex Zimmerman resolved the mystery posed in our last meeting, distinguishing between the real 1992 Noorland flag and his mislabeled Swedish-Finnish flag. He got the information and the flag from the manufacturer!

David Koski enjoyed the second flag as his grandparents came from Sweden and Finland. Celebrating his 69th birthday, he recalled a PFA celebration on this very date in 2010 when he was fêted at the home of John Hood (*VT* founder).



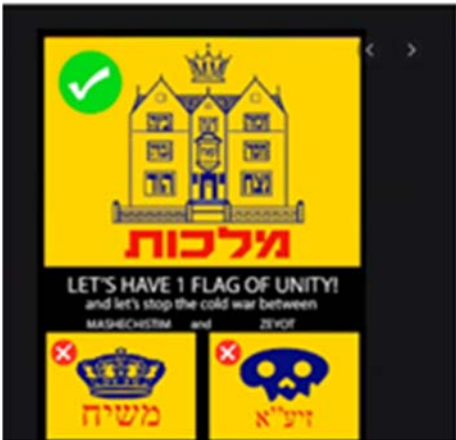
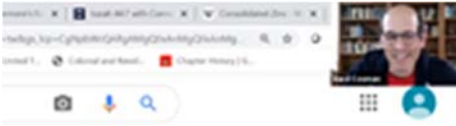
David Koski, is himself a Swedish-Finnish union, as shown by his personal flag.

Max Liberman commemorated Independence Day in Mauritius (time zone-adjusted) with a talk focused on the varying meanings of the stripes on the country's flag.



Max Liberman presents the history of the flag and arms of Mauritius (see p. 7).





Bard Cosman shows variants of the Chabad-Lubavitch flag.

Bard Cosman gave an intriguing presentation on the Chabad-Lubavitch flag, its meaning, symbolism, variants, and memes.

Chris Maddish showed his state-flag variant for Oregon, then quickly created a Chabad-Lubavitch/Gadsden flag with the crown, snake, and Hebrew inscription אל תפקפק במילה שלי (Don't Doubt My Word).



Chris Maddish offers a holiday-themed variant of the Oregon seal escutcheon.



Al Cavallari explains his variant Virginia flag, an example of a solution for “red state people trapped by blue state flags”.

Al Cavallari displayed a variant flag of Virginia in red ordered by a politically-active customer hoping to show it as a “red” state.

Alden Jencks flew the flag of Côte d’Ivoire in recognition of his 1960s Peace Corps service there, pointing out that hung vertically it is a “geographic flag”.



Alden Jencks recalls his Peace Corps service in Côte d’Ivoire.

Graham Houser discussed the “True South” flag proposed by Antarctica hand and NAVA member Evan Townsend, and related how he flies flags daily with explanations for passersby. (Alex then shared images of his similar practice!—see p. 8).



Graham Houser unfurls the “True South” flag for Antarctic preservation.



Jessie Spillers enjoys the penguin on the British Antarctic flag.

Jessie Spillers led a discussion of other flags that have represented Antarctica.

Continued on next page



Geoff Kunkle enjoys his first PFA meeting.

Geoff Kunkle appreciated the welcome to his first meeting.

Ted Kaye described the flag collection of the late John Wild, whose family has asked that it be used in education, and solicited help in inventorying it. He shared a recent NAVA design effort and his own recent flags for Friendly House and Harmer Steel.

Larry Snyder used Philadelphia's Ben Franklin Parkway as his virtual background, then described how the flags lining it are updated yearly (see p. 10).

Phil Allen showed the reversed-U.S.-flag use by the Portland-based political action committee votevets.org as a unique identifier using the military shoulder patch.



Phil Allen spotlights the use of an unusual U.S. flag variant to signify "military".



Ted Kaye shows a Soviet-era banner from the John Wild collection.



Larry Snyder's virtual background shows flags in Philadelphia.

Ralph Bartlett shared his collection of patches from his youthful travels in Australia and later visits

abroad, enthusiastically sewn to fabric by his late grandmother. They inspired his interest in flags.



Ralph Bartlett shows patches collected in his various travels—a forerunner to his interest in flags (see p. 9).



Scott Mainwaring leads a thoughtful discussion on flag design issues.

Scott Mainwaring led a lively half-hour conversation about what constitutes a “good” flag, arguing that Daniel Quasar’s “Progress” Pride Flag (<https://quasar.digital/progress-initiative>) is actually a good design because it has proved popular.

Željko Heimer, the president of FIAV, shared warm greetings and announced the postponements of ICV29/Ljubljana to 2022 and ICV30/Beijing to 2024.



Željko Heimer delivers news from FIAV on ICV postponements.

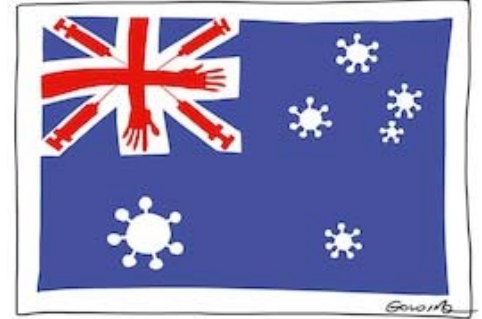
Ted Kaye retained the Portland Flag Association flag, ready for action, eventually.

It is unlikely that our next meeting, on May 13, will be hosted in person, so expect that we will meet virtually again! However, fingers crossed for July.

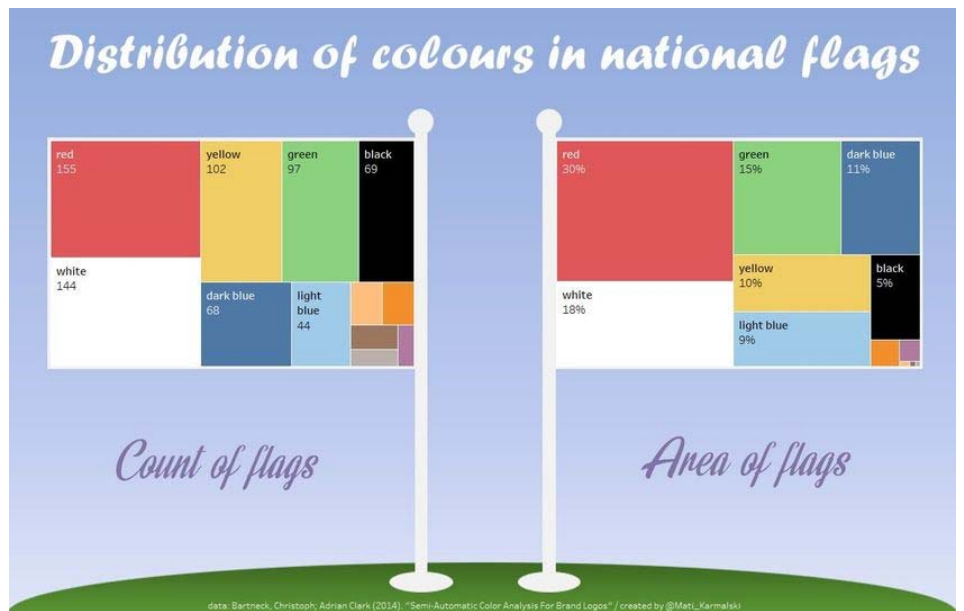
Roundup



A flag for Oregonians who would prefer to live in a “red state”—25% of Oregon voters are registered as Republicans (created by David Koski based on a concept shared by Al Cavallari).



Cartoonist Matt Golding marks the beginning of COVID-19 vaccination in Australia. *Sydney Morning Herald*, Feb. 21, 2021



An interesting graphic found by Larry Snyder, based on: <https://public.tableau.com/profile/mateusz.karmalski#!/vizhome/> AND <http://bartneck.de/publications/2015/colorAnalysisBrandLogos/>



54 flags of the member nations of the British Commonwealth, displayed in Parliament House in Darwin, capital of Australia’s Northern Territory (twice the area of Texas, pop. 250,000).

Ron Strachan shares a brilliant indoor display of Commonwealth flags at Parliament House, Darwin, Northern Territory, in March 2021.

All flags are 4’6” x 9’, fully sewn, and supplied by his company, National Flags, in Darwin.

Students from selected Australian schools will be viewing these flags (at left) as part of their education.

Flags & Plutos

By Michael Orelove

February 18th was Pluto Day, recalling the planet's discovery in 1930.

I recently used my Pluto flag for two Zoom meetings in a row—my Kiwanis Club and the PFA.

I collect Plutos. Most are in two shadow boxes in my bathroom with others scattered around the house. Since I took the Plutos out of the shadowboxes to show at the Kiwanis meeting I set them up on the table to take a group photo.

In addition to Disney Plutos, I also have a collection of items related to the planet Pluto. I have an autograph of Clyde Tombaugh, the astronomer who discovered Pluto, and one of Venetia Burney, who at age 11 suggested “Pluto” as the new planet's name.

I hung up my Pluto flag as the background for the Kiwanis Zoom meeting. The same backdrop was perfect for my “Solar System in Flags” presentation for the PFA, where Pluto completed the planetary tour.



The Disney portion of Michael Orelove's Pluto collection.

In July 2015, the *New Horizons* spacecraft flew by Pluto and took pictures. Some of the photos revealed a heart-shaped area now known as “Tombaugh Regio” It's a large, bright plain—the largest feature on the planet. New research has revealed that this heart of Pluto makes the planet's winds blow.



The 2015 view of Pluto showing the heart-shaped Tombaugh Regio.

A few years ago Scott Mainwaring designed a Pluto flag at my request. The flag has a large heart and the astrological sign for Pluto (he chose it over the astronomical sign for aesthetic reasons).



The astrological symbol for Pluto.



The astronomical symbol for Pluto.

The astronomical symbol combines the letters P and L, the first two letters of “Pluto” and the initials of Percival Lowell, the noted American astronomer who started the search for the mysterious Planet X in 1906. Lowell died in 1916 before Pluto was discovered.

On February 18th Kathleen and I put out the Pluto flag to celebrate Pluto Day. Scott, thanks again for the great design.

I designed a flag for Mars in 2004—so that's two planet flags from PFA members. I wonder which planet is next?



Michael Orelove unfurls his Pluto flag on Pluto Day in 2021.

Flags of Mauritius

By Max Liberman

The March PFA meeting took place on the eve of Independence Day in the Indian Ocean island nation of Mauritius. The country's flag, adopted at independence on 12 March 1968, was designed by the College of Arms in England.

The popular (and probably after-the-fact) explanation of the colors has red representing the struggle for independence, blue the Indian Ocean, yellow the country's bright future, and green its lush vegetation and agriculture.

However, in the wake of political and ethnic tension in Mauritius in 1965–68, the colors could also refer to the leading political parties of the time: red for the Labour Party, blue for the Social Democratic Party, yellow for the Independent Forward Bloc, and green for the Muslim Action Committee.

The national coat of arms dates from 1906 and was not changed at independence. The Latin motto means "The Star and Key of the Indian Ocean".

Mauritius has British-style blue and red ensigns, but the coast guard ensign is very different. I'm not aware of its origin or symbolism, but the blue, white, and red could be derived from the colors of the Union Jack. The stylized anchor incorporates a star and a key, echoing the national motto.

The colonial flag was a British blue ensign with the 1906 coat of arms as a badge in the fly.



Mauritius (1968–).



Arms of Mauritius (1906–).



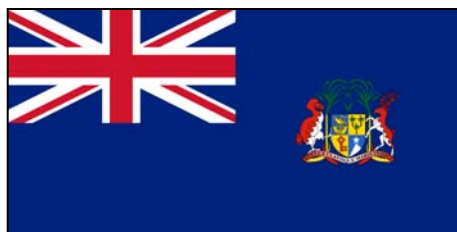
Mauritius, Blue Ensign.



Mauritius, Red Ensign.



Mauritius, Coast Guard.



Colony of Mauritius.

February 14 Flags

By Michael Orelove

February 14th is Valentine's Day and also Oregon Day (Oregon joined the union as the 33rd state on February 14, 1859).

Kathleen has a flag bracket on her house to fly the American flag on various days throughout the year. Because it is too windy at her house in Troutdale to fly the flag every day she usually only flies the flag on half-staff days. An accepted patriotic practice for house-mounted flags is to attach a black ribbon or streamer at the top of the American flag on half-staff days.

This year I planned to fly the Oregon flag on February 14th but we were snowbound and could not get to the flag bracket on the house. So instead, we used our inside flag holder to fly the flag.



Valentine's Day & Oregon's Birthday.

Members Fly Flags for Neighbors

By Graham Houser

Since COVID started I've been collecting more flags and researching more info and found that my "historical marker" has been a great hands-off way to communicate and connect with my neighbors. Many people stop to look and read (or take a picture of the text with their phone) and comment on specific flags that seem to strike a historical vein within a shared strand of our cultural DNA.

I've been updating my "Historical Marker" every few weeks in front of my N.E. Portland house with a flag and matching text blurb. However, I recently convinced my father (who just moved in across the street) to raise a flagpole in his yard, too, and he made us both a new and improved "historical marker" that will have a dual-sided waterproof display so we can include a map/location page!



Friesland flies in N.E. Portland.

By Alex Zimmerman

With stay-at-home orders in place during the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, my Vancouver, Wash., neighborhood experienced a significant increase in walking and biking traffic. As a way to entertain and educate passersby, I decided to raise different flags and place weatherproof placards with a bit of history on a street sign nearby for all to see.

The positive reaction from the residents who took notice was significant and sustained. With a rotation that changed flags every Sunday and Wednesday there was regular variety. Those interested returned to find out what would be next.

I currently have over 100 different 3 x 5-foot flags in the "Fun with Flags" rotating display. There may come a point when the flag variety will be exhausted and the rotation will start over—allowing neighbors to catch flags they may have missed the first time around!



Flag Day in Vancouver, Wash.

By Ted Kaye

Although my N.W. Portland hillside home sits on a dead-end street, more neighbors walk and drive by in these COVID times. Some even go out of their way to check out the "flag of the day".

Early in the pandemic I rigged a clothesline from a second-story window to a tree across the street and began to fly a new flag (or flags) from my collection daily.

At first I placed a whiteboard in the window to explain what's flying; I now use an electronic readerboard (a holiday gift from my family). It scrolls for longer explanations or multiple flags.

My collection—of flags from places I've visited—allows me to avoid repetition for a full year. Neighborly feedback has been enthusiastic. Even the garbage trucks take care when driving under the flags!



Andorra flies in Willamette Heights.

Collecting Flag Patches

By Ralph Bartlett

In my home in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, wall-hanging sheets of souvenir travel badges or patches document my national and international travels and represent my earliest exposure to vexillology.

The background sheets and badges were sewn together by my late grandmother, starting in the early 1980s, with the Australian badges/patches I'd collected during family travels across my home country.

Two more sheets memorialize my European travels, particularly in 1985, when I collected souvenirs both before and after the 11th International Congress of Vexillology in Madrid.

My grandmother also put together a sheet for the USA & Canada in 1987, after I travelled across North America before attending the 12th International Congress of Vexillology in San Francisco.

I tried, and still do, try to acquire badges/patches showing various places' flag or arms. More recent travels to other places have added patches to my collection.

These sheets were another way I nurtured my flag interests as a teenager/young adult, before coming in contact with like-minded people and vexillology.

The sheets, of black or brown fabric, measure approximately 30–35 inches (76–89 cm) wide by 43 inches (110 cm) high.



Patches from travels across Australia in the 1970s and 1980s.



Patches from travels in Britain in 1985.



Patches from travels in the U.S. and Canada in 1987.



Patches from travels in New Zealand and Europe in the 1980s.



Patches from travels in the 1990s.

Flags in Philadelphia

By Larry Snyder

When I lived in Philadelphia, I appreciated its history and international flavor. In the latest PFA meeting I used a virtual backdrop showing the flag display on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, a scenic boulevard that runs through the cultural heart of Philadelphia. It starts at Philadelphia's City Hall, curves around Logan Circle, and ends at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. The website of the Parkway Museum District explains:

The colorful tradition of displaying flags of many countries on the parkway began in 1976 as a part of the bicentennial celebration. Every year since then, the installation of about 90 international flags on Memorial Day weekend has heralded the beginning of summer.

Philadelphia's Deputy City Representative's Office is responsible for the flags. The flags represent countries with significant populations in Philadelphia, and are hung alphabetically, with a few exceptions.

The flags will soon go up again!



Looking southeast to City Hall.



Looking northwest to the Art Museum.



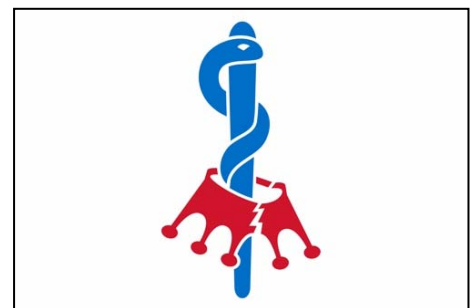
The current flag layout on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

COVID Defiance Flag Heralds Vaccine Rollout

In Portland, the wide rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine took place in some locations under the COVID Defiance flag. Multnomah County's Mid-County Health Center in Southeast Portland hoisted the flag at the instigation of Divneet Kaur, MD, the site medical director. As the battle proceeds, the flag will be inverted. Its design honors healthcare workers using the Rod of Asclepius and a broken crown (Lat. *corona*).



Vaccinations under way at the Mid-County Health Center.



The COVID Defiance flag, designed a year ago by our colleagues in Slovenia, signifies the battle by our healthcare workers to vanquish the pandemic virus (see VT#81 for the coverage of its introduction).

What's that Flag?

By John Cartledge

Name these flags and identify the theme connecting them (text removed from two). Answers in the next issue...



What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

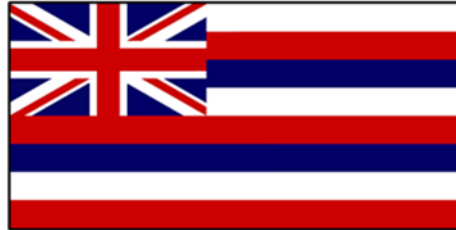
By Ted Kaye

These flags represent the southernmost state or province in their respective countries.

Congrats to solvers Tony Burton, John Cartledge, Nikita Dudkov, and Bruce Stewart.



Limburg, Netherlands



Hawaii, USA



Oromia, Ethiopia



Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil



Tasmania, Australia



Okinawa, Japan



Åland, Finland



Portland Flag Miscellany



Flag of North Korea in the style of Portland: https://www.reddit.com/r/vexillology/comments/99wlr/flag_of_north_korea_in_the_style_of_portland/



Nosoleslost: Custom Hand-Painted Portland Timbers AF1. <https://www.instagram.com/p/CEfwP11pQ86>

Some fun variations on the Portland flag, found on the interwebs...



Polishedinportland:

Ohhh, my dearest husband is for really reals my favorite person in the entire world. He is so supportive and patient. I wanted to practice and he's all about his #portland support so we went with the #portlandflag ☺
#polishedinportland
<https://www.instagram.com/p/BWQbCi0AjeK>



An MLS crest shape filled with the flag of Portland. Ryan Radecki, 2018. <https://patchpatrol.com/patches/portland-mls-flag/>



<https://www.pdxmonthly.com/news-and-city-life/2016/05/portland-timbers-launch-emoji-pack-for-your-phone>

May Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 13, 2021.

If by some miracle we can meet in person, we will announce the location and provide a map. Otherwise, watch for a Zoom invitation.

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

Newcomers and friends from around the world are welcome!



zoom

The *Vexilloid Tabloid*, founded in 1999 by the late John Hood, is published bi-monthly by and for the Portland Flag Association—Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Find back issues at www.portlandflag.org.