



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 98 February 2023

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Michael Orelove 1943–2023

The PFA has never seen a more quirky, enthusiastic, and consistent member than Michael Orelove, who died the week before our January meeting. He’d recently celebrated his 80th birthday, with a large contingent of PFA members attending the party.

Michael, a Chicago native, moved to Portland 15+ years ago after retiring from a state job in Alaska. Flags, one of his many interests (others included astronomy, gold panning, and time capsules!), soon drew him to the PFA.

Readers of these pages know Michael as the most prolific contributor of articles, chronicling his travels, projects, and research into flags. Nearly every *VT* issue featured a story in which he shared one of his many flaggy passions.

He’s perhaps best known for his letter-writing campaigns, attempting to secure flags for his educational talks—soliciting them from every U.N. country, every U.S. state governor, every federal government agency, and more.



He shared the results with PFA members and *VT* readers, then often put the flags to good use—first in his frequent public talks, and then donated to good causes (for example, his yacht burgees went to the local Sea Scouts).

Kathleen Forrest, his companion in so many of his flag adventures, recalls how Michael enjoyed the camaraderie of the PFA. In turn, we remember how he always demonstrated a profound curiosity about the world around him (and beyond) and generously shared the results of his enthusiasms with us.

Our flags are at half-staff for Michael.



***There are strange things done
in the midnight sun***

By the men who moil for gold

—Robert W. Service

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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.

January 2023 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our January meeting, hosted by Patrick Genna and streamed via Zoom, 16 PFA members and out-of-town (and -country) guests enjoyed two and a half hours of flags and video conversation.

We began the meeting with recollections of the late Michael Orelove (see p. 1); appropriately so as for years his presentation had traditionally started each meeting.

Ted Kaye moderated the session, at Patrick's request, and began by presenting the results of NAVA's New American City Flags Survey (see p. 6), followed by handing out flags created by Michael Green's FLAGS FOR GOOD and Salem, Oregon, flags and pins sent by Brian McKinley, ending with the quiz from the last *VT*.

Ken Dale recalled Veterans Day parades and interment ceremonies, and passed out stickless flags retrieved from Lincoln Memorial Park which he'd rehabilitated.



Ken Dale gives out flags.



Ted Kaye unfurls a proposed Oregon flag (beaver on both sides), a gift from Flags for Good.

New member Lawson Fite discussed his interest in how flags are raised and lowered as a symbol of change, using as an example the raising of the 49-star U.S. flag to denote Alaska statehood in 1959.



Lawson Fite cites Alaska's flag-raising.

Max Liberman posed an interesting question first heard at ICV 29 in Ljubljana last year: "What flag would you have cover your own casket?", which generated many interesting replies.



Max Liberman poses a question.

Scott Mainwaring showed his new project, posting on Facebook every appearance by Michael Orelove in the pages of the *V/T*, back to #17.



Scott Mainwaring helps with tech in front of the U.S. and St. Louis flags.



Scott Mainwaring has begun posting some of the many appearances by Michael Orelove in the pages of the *Vexilloid Tabloid* since April 2008.



Graham Houser does pennants.

Graham Houser gave out postcards and stickers of the Rocky Butte (Portland) neighborhood flag he'd recently designed, and shared a collection of several old pennants he'd just acquired—including several local to Portland.

Joyce Gifford expressed her enthusiasm for the proposed new Utah flag, and displayed the old and new patches for Antarctica (the Graham Bartram and Evan Townsend designs), for sale at smallpatches.com.



Joyce Gifford bears True South.

Alex Zimmerman identified a mystery flag as that of the former Royal Viking Line, then described his work in NAVA conveying deceased members' flag collections to teachers and asked for eBay help.



Alex Zimmerman shows a flag destined for a teacher (see Mastai, p. 101).



Jessie Spillers extends an invitation.

Jessie Spillers issued an invitation to attend the next meeting at his community room.

Continued on next page



Malcolm Reilly ponders Oregon's flag.

New member Malcolm Reilly shared his interest in a new Oregon state flag, and averred that on his casket would be a "Going Out of Business" flag.

John Niggley unveiled the rebranding of our local hockey team, the Portland Winterhawks, and shared his thoughts on a flag based on the new logo.



John Niggley talks hockey.



Ralph Bartlett takes a flag lunch.



Patrick Genna explains the history of his home town flag, St. Louis, Missouri.

Patrick Genna had decorated the meeting room with U.S flag and the flag of his native St. Louis, Missouri, and described how it was designed for the 1964 bicentennial and now flies widely in that city.

Ralph Bartlett zoomed in from Melbourne to describe his research on the histories of the flags of the municipal councils of his local area.



Phil Allen talks new Berkeley flag.



Alden Jencks phones from a bus.

Chris Maddish, in Pennsylvania, joined in but was timed out due to time-zone issues.

Phil Allen, from West Berkeley, California, updated us on his efforts to lead Berkeley's city council to adopt a new flag (Ted has sent him 30 copies of *GFBF* to help the cause).

Alden Jencks called in from a Greyhound bus, on his way from Monterey to Los Angeles, and suggested flag collections be shared with foreign-language teachers.

Our next meeting, on March 9, 2023, will be at the residence of Jessie Spillers and streamed via Zoom. Ted will bring the PFA flag.

We expect again to welcome our local members as well as far-flung friends to the meeting.

Holes in My Head

By Michael Orelove†

After Queen Elizabeth died, people in Great Britain and other places lowered the British flag to half-staff.

I just stuck the flags into the holes in my head.

In 1999, I made “Michael Salt Shakers” as my Solstice/Holiday gifts for relatives and friends.

Since I don’t use much salt now, I use the shaker as a table flag staff.



Two toothpick Union Jacks adorn a Michael shaker in memory of ERII.



“Michael Salt Shakers” line up for Solstice/Holiday giving.

80 flags for 80 years

By Michael Orelove†

For my 80th birthday celebration, Kathleen’s son and daughter-in-law (Bill Forrest and Sarah Kelsey) gave me a unique present: a jigsaw puzzle of 80 national flags. I like jigsaw puzzles and flags—how they found a jigsaw puzzle with 80 flags amazes me!

The puzzle frame has the names of the countries. Each puzzle piece has the name of the capital city.

Thank you, Bill and Sarah.



Michael shows the 80-piece flag-themed jigsaw puzzle he received for his 80th birthday.



“Michael Salt Shakers”, produced by the dozens in multiple colors in 1999.

Am I a Canuck?

By Michael Orelove†

Every month I sing the Canadian national anthem to the Canadian flag.

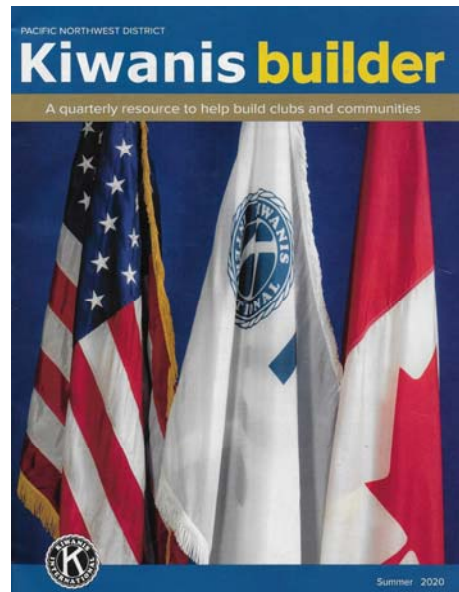
I am a longtime member of the Columbia River Kiwanis Club, which is in the Kiwanis Pacific Northwest District. The district includes clubs in Oregon, Washington, Alaska, parts of Idaho and California, and British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.

We have the American and Canadian flags at our meetings and start our meetings by singing *America* and *O Canada*.

Does that make me part-Canuck (a slang term for a Canadian)?

The recent issue of the Kiwanis magazine has three flags on the cover. I have all three flags in my collection.

Eh?



Kiwanis builder, the magazine of the Pacific NW District, features the flags of the U.S., Kiwanis, and Canada.

NAVA's New American City Flags Survey

By Ted Kaye

Since 2015, when Roman Mars gave his seminal TED Talk (“Why city flags may be the worst-designed thing you’ve never noticed”), hundreds of U.S. cities and towns have adopted new or redesigned flags.

In late 2022, NAVA asked its members and the public to rate the designs of 312 city flags adopted since 2015.

From September through November, 2,852 people participated in the online survey: 308 NAVA members and 2,544 public participants.

They rated the design of each flag using a low-to-high 0–10 scale. The numerical ratings for each flag were averaged and the average rating was converted to a letter grade, with grades ranging from F (lowest) to A+ (highest).

The overall average grade for the 312 flags included in the survey was a D+ (a rating of 3.65).

Distribution by grade:

- A: 46 flags (15% of total)
- B: 50 flags (16% of total)
- C: 24 flags (8% of total)
- D: 49 flags (15% of total)
- F: 143 flags (46% of total)

This abysmal showing (61% D or F) may demonstrate that while we’ve done a good job of training flag-designers, we’ve missed training flag-choosers!

See: nava.org/2022-survey.

February 2023



The highest- and lowest-ranking flags in NAVA's 2022 New American City Flags Survey.

The Gettysburg and Appomattox Flags: Sobriquets for Civil War Flags

By Alden Jencks

Three American flags waved above the blood-soaked battlefields of our Civil War.

33 Stars, July 4, 1859 – July 3, 1861
(Oregon)

34 Stars, July 4, 1861 – July 3, 1863
(Kansas)

35 Stars, July 4, 1863 – July 3, 1865
(West Virginia)

Every schoolchild should know the famous photograph of the tattered, yet defiant 33-star flag flying above Fort Sumter. This flag, with its striking diamond-like constellation of stars, has been fittingly called the “Fort Sumter Flag”. Far be it from me to suggest any other moniker.

But what of the 34- and 35-starred flags? For these historic banners, I suggest the “Gettysburg Flag” and the “Appomattox Flag”.

The final three days of 34’s tenure witnessed heroic Federal troops offering up their last full measure of devotion that the Union might live. It is only fitting that Gettysburg and these brave men be immortalized in a name.

And the 35-star flag? I suggest the “Appomattox Flag”—the flag of final Union victory. In suggesting this sobriquet, I purposely confront and displace the third national flag of the Confederacy, which, unfortunately, is often also called the “Appomattox Flag.”

In the first decades of the 21st century, we are finally taking down monuments and statues which proclaim the “noble and glorious lost cause” of traitorous rebellion. How much more important is it to strike down a perverted apotheosis of the ultimate symbol of the defeated and discredited Confederacy—its flag?

Glory to the 35-star Appomattox Flag! And glory to the 34-star Gettysburg Flag and to the 33-star Fort Sumter Flag!



33-Star “Fort Sumter Flag”



34-Star “Gettysburg Flag”



35-Star “Appomattox Flag”

This is the second in a series of proposals for sobriquets for American flags. The first ran in VT#95, p. 5

Salem, Ohio



Salem, Ohio—colorized by Phil Allen.

While Oregon’s Salem is the only state capital, 21 other cities in the U.S. bear the same name.

Unlike our Salem, which recently adopted a highly-rated flag, Salem, Ohio, has a vexillological challenge. Its flag, adopted in 1984, was first hidden from the public for years, and now the city is unaware of its existence.

The late city flag scholar John Purcell (primary author of *American City Flags*) visited Ohio’s Salem in 1989; the mayor’s secretary reported that while the city did have a flag, there were “standing orders” that no one was to see it ([NAVA News, Jan./Feb. 1990, p. 3](#)). A prior administration had adopted it and apparently the then-mayor disliked it.

Now Phil Allen, a frequent PFA meeting attendee from Berkeley, California, was recently told by the city secretary “...the city of Salem does not have a flag.” Dislike has now apparently become denial!

He has sent information on the 1984 flag’s design and history to the current administration; we’ve forwarded it to FOTW’s editors.

Field Report: Long Beach, Washington

By Ted Kaye

In a summer visit to Washington's Long Beach Peninsula, I had fun encountering two retail locations prominently featuring flags.

jackscountrystore.com

Jack's Country Store, in Ocean Park (at the north end) proclaims "Purveyors of Fine Goods Since 1885", and warns: **CONTRARY TO PUBLIC OPINION, WE DO NOT HAVE EVERYTHING.** However, among the 200,000 different items stocked in the store are state and national flags in 2'x3' and 3'x5' sizes.

Founded in 1885, when the area was still part of Washington Territory, Jack's may be the oldest continuing retail business in the state. First-time visitors marvel at the wood floors, rolling track ladders, enormous oak showcases, a beautiful stained glass ceiling, and flags hanging throughout the store.

marshsfreemuseum.com

On the lower peninsula, in the city of Long Beach, Marsh's Free Museum is a massive curio shop and museum and a must-see for tourists. Famously home to Jake the Alligator Man, it also features a shrunken head from the South American Jivaro Indians, a two-headed calf, a human skeleton found in a nearby Aberdeen closet, and seashells galore.

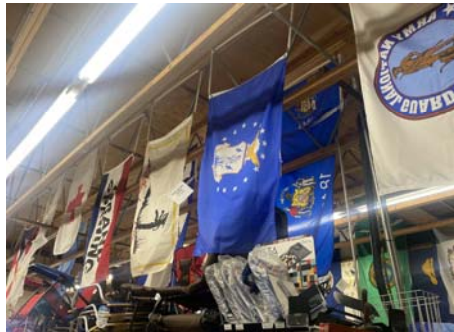
Draped from the ceiling is a 39-star U.S. flag (never official) from the late 1880s, perhaps an anticipatory flag for Washington statehood.



Jack's Country Store in Ocean Park.



A pre-1801 Union Flag flanks U.S. state flags starting with "A".



Miscellaneous flags include the Red Cross, "Grand Opening", and the Air and Army National Guards.



A POW-MIA flag flanks U.S. state flags starting with "I"—more hang in the background.



A swallow-tailed 35-star Civil-War-era U.S. cavalry guidon competes with a flower garden banner and Mexico.



An unofficial 39-star U.S. Flag at Marsh's might have anticipated Washington statehood in 1889.

Roundup



A large U.S. flag (30' x 60') from the USS *Abraham Lincoln* hangs in the Veterans Memorial Museum in Chehalis, Washington.

An interesting vexillological treasure hangs in the Veterans Memorial Museum in Chehalis, Washington. veteransmuseum.org

Just off I-5, the museum is one of the best examples of preserving the memory and honoring the service of veterans from the founding of our nation onward.

While many flags and banners are displayed in the museum, the 30' x 60' flag retired from the USS *Abraham Lincoln* is quite a sight.

It had proudly hung in the carrier's hangar bay, one level below the flight deck, until the captain ordered it replaced. PO2 Joshua Hills secured its donation to his hometown museum.

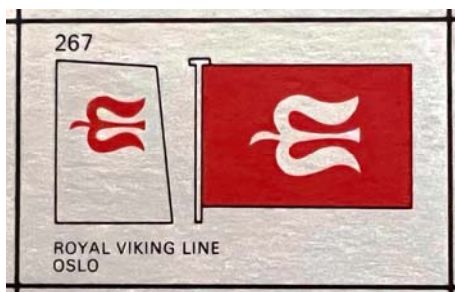
Some time ago Alex Zimmerman found a flag and sent out an ID request. Many thought it was a Pentecostal banner, however, the rigging was very marine.

Consulting *Brown's Flags and Funnels—Steamship Companies British and Foreign* (8th ed., 1982), he learned that the flag represented the Royal Viking Line (1972–98).

The swallowtail-and-tongue format, common to Nordic flags, supports the identification.



Identified: Royal Viking Line.



Brown's Flags and Funnels shows the Royal Viking Line logo.



Vicky Krieps and Viggo Mortensen pose with Luxembourg's Red Lion.

Actor and filmmaker Viggo Mortensen decided to collect flags from all the nations represented on the set of his latest film, *The Dead Don't Hurt*. The female lead, Luxembourgish actress Vicky Krieps, provided Mortensen with Luxembourg's famous Red Lion ensign.

From the Last Issue (VT#97)

Answer: The mystery message in David Ferriday's art on p. 1 reads:
 VEXILLOLOGY IS FOR THE FLAGS
 ORNITHOLOGY IS FOR THE BIRDS



Graham Houser flies the Rocky Butte flag for the first time—at the local farmers' market in September.



Ben Frederick, a NAVA and PFA member, gives a presentation on good and bad city flags to his second grade class at Valley Catholic.



The Music of Vexillology

By Graham Houser

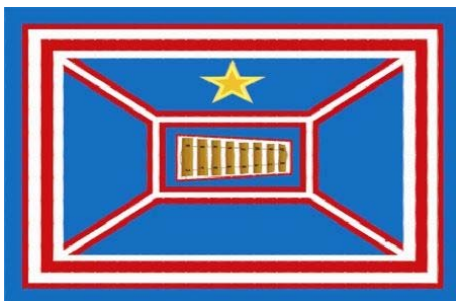
In a NAVA interest area meeting last year, I explored how musical instruments appear on flags.

For example, a proposed flag for Barotseland, the homeland of the Lozi people (or Barotse) in southern Africa, bears a xylophone. The flag was posted on Facebook in 2020 by “Barotse Change”, advocating “a completely independent Barotseland”.

Siyemboka music, the national sound of Barotseland, is played on the *silimba*, a traditional marimba/xylophone with wooden keys and gourds as resonators, making it a potent national symbol.



Barotseland is an ethnic region in southern Africa.



The proposed Barotseland flag, 2020.



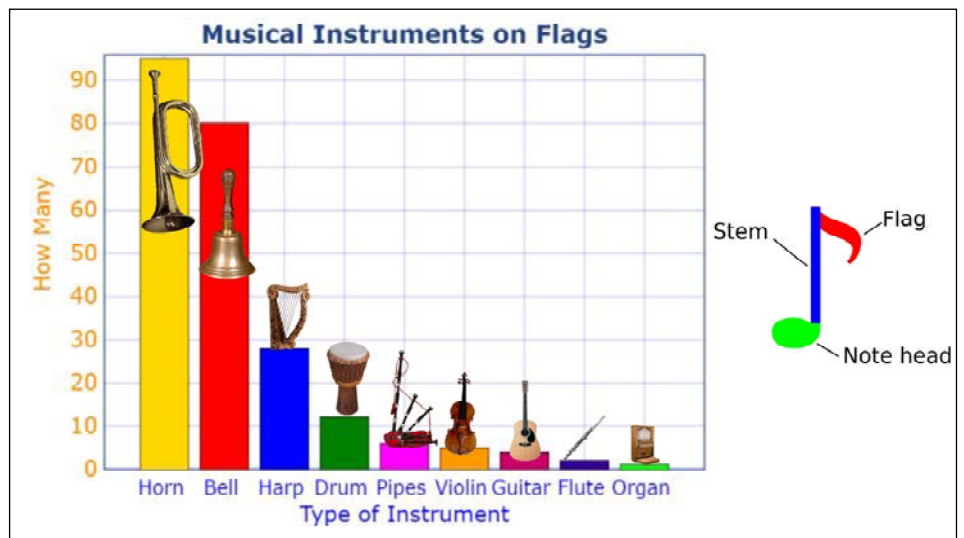
A *silimba* xylophone of Barotseland.

February 2023

A compilation of flags that feature musical instruments with audio and video pairings of the instrument being played.



Introducing the concept of musical instruments on flags.



Horns and bells are the most common instruments on flags, in one sample.

Karen People, Southeast Asia



Bronze drum making is an ancient tradition in Southeast Asia. It is said that the deep tone of the drums is pleasing to spirits and to the *nat* spirits. It is possible that the drums were also used in during rice planting season to encourage the rains – they sometimes are referred to as rain drums and commonly use motifs of the frog, duck and fish. It is also possible that seed rice was stored in the drums prior to sowing.

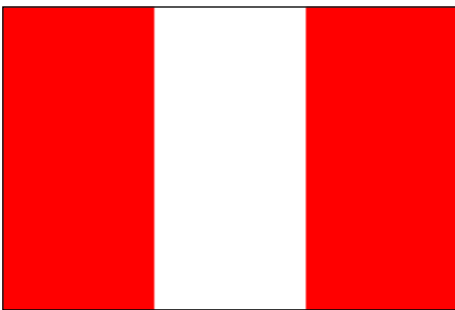


The Karen people from Myanmar place a bronze drum on their group’s flag.

What's that Flag?

By Mike Thomas

Identify these **seven** flags and the **wonderful** theme that connects them.



What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

By David Ferriday†

These flags all represent islands in Europe.

Congrats to solvers Nikita Dudko, Bruce Stewart, Mike Thomas, and Larry Wentworth.



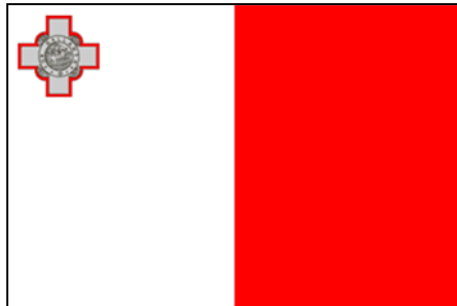
Cyprus



Venice



Isle of Skye



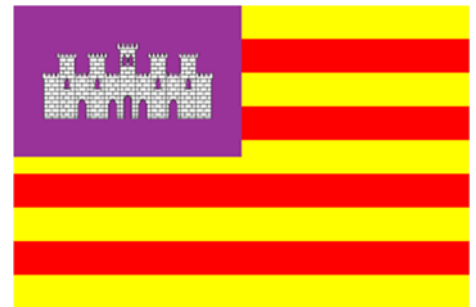
Malta



Guernsey



Isle of Man



Balearic Islands

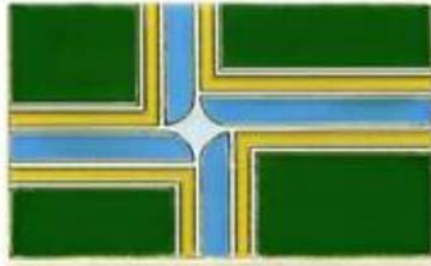


Portland Flag Miscellany



Portland flag-based needlepoint, placing the city flag within the outline of the state of Oregon, adding a heart at the geographic location of the city.

[instagram.com/p/Bqt-U4_AMGG/](https://www.instagram.com/p/Bqt-U4_AMGG/)



Portland, Oregon city flag pin—1"
“Pacific Northwest PDX
Enamel Lapel Jacket Badge”
\$7.95

Available at [ebay.com/
itm/403572274101](https://www.ebay.com/itm/403572274101)



17-second animated image of the
Portland flag from envato.

[elements.envato.com/flag-of-portland-
city-with-alpha-4k-9SUES4Q](https://elements.envato.com/flag-of-portland-city-with-alpha-4k-9SUES4Q)

RCTID (Rip City 'Til I Die)
badge in Portland flag colors,
based on the Portland Trailblazers'
Rip City logo, 2017.

Documented on: [patchpatrol.com/
patches/rctid-rip-city/rctid-rip-city-
portland-flag-colors/](https://patchpatrol.com/patches/rctid-rip-city/rctid-rip-city-portland-flag-colors/)

Artist: Brent Diskin



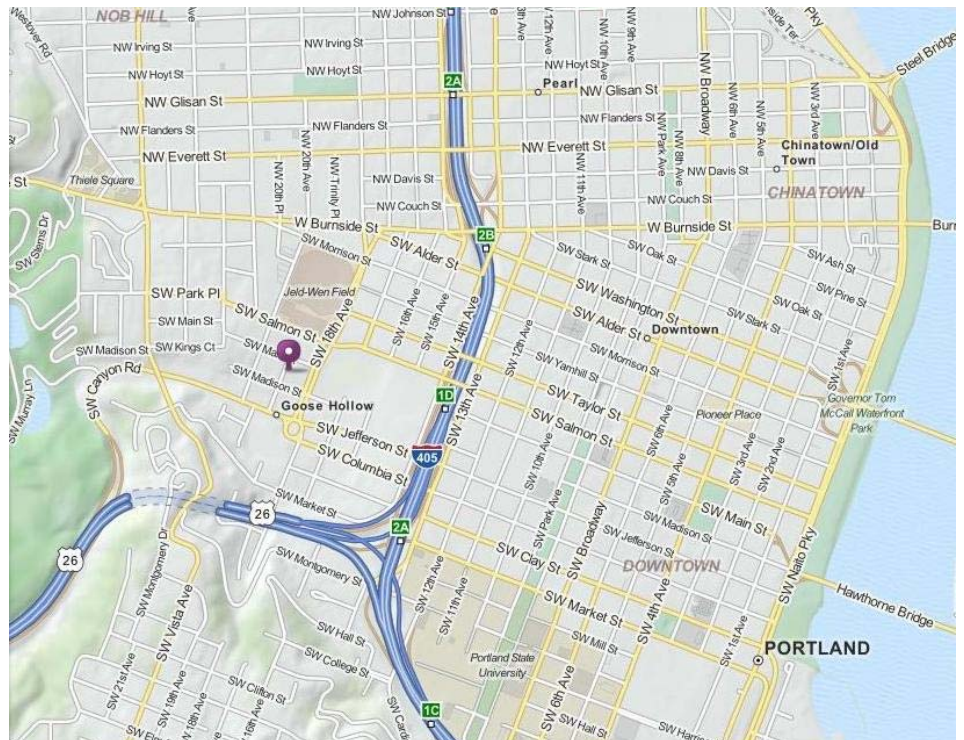
March Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 PM, Thursday, 9 March 2023, in the community room at the residence of Jessie Spillers (Legends), 1132 S.W. 19th Ave., Portland.

Those who cannot attend in person should 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!



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 portlandflag.org.