

It was a warm respite from a rather cold winter when the Chesapeake Bay Flag Association (CBFA) met at the home of former NAVA president Peter Ansoff in Virginia on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 from 11 a.m. until about 3 p.m. His brick residence featured several flag poles flying the NAVA flag, the CBFA flag, the naval signal colors for CBFA, and Peter's personal flag from a pole over the car port. If you are a vexillologist, it would have been quite difficult to have missed his house.

In addition to Peter and his wife Mary, Jack Lowe, CBFA president, Nick Artimovich, former NAVA president and CBFA co-founder, Tom Carrier, former NAVA Board Member and CBFA co-founder and unofficial CBFA Recording Secretary, long time members Dale Grimes, Daniel Broh-Kahn, John Radel, Dick Clark and Chris Bedwell also attended along with new member Ron Bowers and Joe Cook, a guest of Chris Bedwell. All introduced themselves to the group along with their individual specialties.

Over a buffet lunch, cookies and sodas provided by Peter with a homemade salad provided by Mary, there was talk of elephant flags, flag etiquette in general, flags made in China and gold fringe on the U.S. flag, a perennial favorite.

Then Chris Bedwell presented a plaque to Peter Ansoff on behalf of Sanjay Rao, the president of the Indian Vexillological Association, as a gift for his work as the recent past president of NAVA. With a wonderful quote in Hindi and a bas relief of the national flag of India, the plaque is a generous appreciation between vexillological friends. Naturally, Peter was delighted as we all were.

Chris continued with a presentation of the flag of North Pole, Alaska, a small community with the theme of Christmas featured throughout the flag design. The colors of red, white and green are predominant along with every, and I mean, every possible symbol of Christmas represented on this flag. In short, it is busy, but definitely noticeable from afar, one of the prerequisites for any flag design.

Our president, Jack Lowe, who arranged the meeting as he always does with grace and charm, took over to provide some business for the members to consider, such as: ***[John, complete the details for each, please]***

- 2011 Maryland State Historical Archives
- American Flag Forum
- Just a question: how many members have flag poles at home: 3
- Update on Tumbling Waters Flag Museum collection – it was understood that the flags were sold to the Heritage Society and then dispersed. In fact, Chris Bedwell had bought some of the flags and has them in his collection.
- Update on NAVA-ICV convention to be held in the Washington, D.C. area in 2011 during the first week of August from Monday through Friday. The event will probably be held in Alexandria, Virginia proper with possible side trips to the Flag House in Baltimore, the Naval Academy in Annapolis, the White House, the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, the Marine Corps Museum in Virginia, and the Native American Flag Exhibit at the American Indian Museum in Washington, D.C. All members are to block out that time to help onsite and throughout the preparations.

- Just a reminder to check in with CBFA's website at [CBFAvexillology.info](http://CBFAvexillology.info) for all the updates on the 2011 as well as the 2010 convention to be held in Japan.
- The CBFA Treasury shows a balance of \$160. It was suggested, and by voice vote approved, that \$5 from each member would be provided to Peter and any future organizers of CBFA meetings to help defray the cost of lunch. It was also suggested, and by voice vote approved, that the Treasury hold at least \$300 to help with the upcoming ICV expenses.

And time for individual presentations began.

- First up, Tom Carrier who specializes in flags of heads of state, government flags, and U.S. presidential/White House memorabilia. As an active dealer with a booth at the Great Strasburg Emporium in Strasburg, Virginia, Tom recently changed his inventory to focus on selling vintage national flags, coats-of-arms, vintage tour books and books on national history to be known as Patriotica. Tom brought along handmade flags of Peru, Turkey, and a crocheted U.S. 50 star flag as examples. CBFA members will hopefully provide additional examples as they become available.

Tom also provided a quiz for military flag collectors. A local antique dealer was stumped by the design of a light blue flag with a circle of stars and a star in the center that was featured on a hand painted reverse painting on an early 19c gilt mirror. Can CBFA members identify it for him? Definitely. The flag is in fact an early U.S. naval jack flown primarily during the period encompassing the War of 1812. Not even a challenge.

- Ron Bowers was next. He brought along his virtually complete collection of U.S. national historic flags in 4"x 6" format complete with stands. He uses the collection as the basis of a travelling presentation he does for chapters of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees (NARFE). We were genuinely pleased to have Ron join us and hope to see him with us again.
- Nick Artimovich brought along a 48 star flag with the mysterious 'dreadnought E 3x5' printed on the heading. Now the meaning of what that means eluded the group. Nick also brought along a pre-WWII Weimar German flag, a Hanoverian Italian flag of 1920s vintage, a wonderful 1920s era Latvia flag with the halyard still attached, a Soviet era Russia Republic flag used from 1917 to 1922, and a wonderfully embroidered silk handkerchief featuring the U.S. and National China flag of the period 1912 through 1924. What a great collection.
- Chris Bedwell entertained us with several of his 3x5 foot flags such as Whitney Smith's design for the flag of Antarctica featuring the orange/white color scheme with the "A" for Antarctica and the hands of humanity preserving the Southern hemisphere. He also had a nice flag of Kampuchea, featuring the red field and Angkor Wat with only 3 of the 5 towers shown in yellow flown during the Pol Pot era, the flag of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Sedona, Arizona, the City of St. Pete Beach, Florida, Jackson, Mississippi of green/white and a yellow star, and Parkersburg, West Virginia. The flag Chile uses in its territories on the Antarctic is wonderfully designed with the colors of light blue, yellow and the five white stars. The flag of the African Union of green and yellow was of traditional design, but the flag of the South African homeland Gazan Kulu showed spoons held by chains used in wedding ceremonies, not as a symbol of past oppression. Most interesting.

- What we didn't know was that Peter Ansoff sailed in a replica of a 1788 sailing ship in a tall ships display for the Columbus Quincentennial in Baltimore in 1992. He brought along the small flag of Spain flown on the small 3 masted rigger replica. How fun was that. His collection of Mardi Gras flags, though, got our attention. Apparently, the original colors of purple and yellow were possibly inspired by Crown Prince of Russia when Mardi Gras debuted in 1872. Since then there have been different versions of the same flag, including a YWCA version adopted by the City Council of New Orleans that was copyrighted.

This brought up a discussion about copyrighted flags and whether it is a good idea. The general consensus seems to be that copyrighting a flag seems unnecessary. Why have a flag that can only be flown with permission and a payment? The copyright would prevent the Town Council from actually distributing the flag and the whole point of a flag is for it to be seen.

- Dale Grimes, who has quite the collection of U.S. 48 star national flags manufactured on Mare Island, California where the flag of Iwo Jima was manufactured, brought along a 'blood' chit made of leather and one of silk. For those unfamiliar with a 'blood' chit, this is a rectangular block of material that features the flags of the U.S. and Taiwan with several translations of the phrase similar to "I am a friend. Take me to the nearest American lines" and used during World War II and the Korean Conflict. His very huge woolen Army-Navy Efficiency flag was new for most of us. It was a banner sent to factories that exceeded their production quotas during World War II. There was also the commissioning pennant for the USS Baxter and a Mare Island flag for the USS Spangerberg.

Before the auction, it was decided that CBFA would meet again around Flag Day, June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. to participate in their Flag Day presentations and to hold the meeting in the Memorial's meeting room.

The auction was the last item of business. Some very spirited bids were recorded for the flag of San Marino, California, Prince Edward Islands, Canada, the Four Provinces of Ireland flag, the flags of Wyoming, Poland, Quebec, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Indianapolis, Indiana, and a 2 star Admiral flag. Altogether the auction brought in \$291 to benefit CBFA, the NAVA Conservation Fund and the Bear Flag Museum of California.

It was truly a great day to be a vexillologist.

Tom Carrier, honorary minutes-taker