



# Journal of Vexillology

March

**Nº25**

2010

## A NEW VERMONT FLAG?



Design #1

A new web site has been launched by Greg Stone at <http://vt-vexillology.webs.com/> offering eight proposals for a new Vermont flag and an opportunity to vote on your favorite.

The eight proposals, numbered 1 through 8 (1-4, left top to bottom and 5-8 right, top to bottom), are shown here.

The web site states "Did you know that almost half of the states in the United States use a flag composed of a blue field charged with either the state seal or arms? It is almost impossible to distinguish the state flag of Vermont from that of New York, or Idaho or Maine, or Michigan. It is our aim to generate enough popular support here in Vermont to be able to bring a proposal before the state legislature."

The designs offered, all by Mr. Stone, feature the Vermont Arms or Seal. One design, #8, uses a few elements from the seal.

Mr. Stone's effort is to try to get public support for the idea of adopting a new flag design in Vermont. Some of the designs have explanations attached.

The basis for design #1 was the so-called Green Mountain Boys flag, with the blue canton charged with 13 white stars removed, and replaced with a white canton charged with the state's arms. The simplicity of this design is its strength. The green field represents the beautiful green mountains.

The basis for design #2 is the same as #1, but the green field being replaced with horizontal stripes alternating green and white num-



Design #5



Design #2



Design #6



Design #3



Design #7



Design #4



Design #8

*Continued on Page 2*

**Continued from Page 1**

bering 14; one for each county and for the fact that Vermont was the 14th state to join the United States. Design #3 is the same, except for vertical stripes.

The basis of design #4 is green for the green mountains, the large maple leaf is a representation of Vermont's chief export, maple syrup, and the 14 stars for the 14 counties and the 14th state.

The Great Seal of the State of Vermont was designed in 1778 by Ira Allen and is used in designs #5 and #6. On #5 the seal is set on a white field in hoist, while #6 has it on a yellow field in the hoist and the fly end being green for the green mountains. Design #7 uses the Coat-of-Arms instead of the seal on the white hoist area, with the green fly.

Design #8 has elements taken from the Vermont state seal, and using the official state colors, green and yellow. Images taken from the seal are the spouton head on the left, and a sheave of wheat on the right. The pine tree, taken from the state's arms and seal, is also a symbol of New England.

Participants also have the choice of "None of Them!" in the voting. You are asked to explain such a vote.

The present flag of Vermont, adopted in 1923 is, of course, blue with the State Arms in the center, like so



Vermont State Flag since 1923.



Vermont Flag proposal by FRC.



Vermont Flag proposal by Dave Martucci in 1979.

many other US State flags. Prior to that, Vermont used a series of flags based on the Stars and Stripes.

Others have proposed new designs for Vermont. Dr. Whitney Smith of the Flag Research Center in Winchester, Massachusetts made a proposal that was published in *Yankee Magazine* in the mid-1970s. It had a green field on which was centered the Vermont Seal in gold and green, with two narrow vertical stripes of white and blue at the fly end.

Your editor, Dave Martucci, proposed a simple design for a practical people in 1979. It consisted of a green tree outlined in gold on a green field.

Greg Stone says "So please, if you have a minute, stop by, take a look at the designs I have developed, and vote for the one you like best. But don't stop there, sign the guest book, or even make a comment, and most importantly, forward this note to anyone and everyone! We need all the support we can get! If you happen to be on Facebook, join the group there as well: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=362440242345>."

If you would like to become involved, please contact Gregory B. Stone, 71 Rowell Brook Rd. Bradford, VT 05033, 802.222.5480 [gstone@arcmech.com](mailto:gstone@arcmech.com).

## The Future Vermont Republic's New Silver Token

What might the medium of exchange of a free and independent Vermont look like? Just like the recently minted Second Vermont Republic's Scott Nearing 50 Clover Silver Token.

Who in the world was Scott Nearing? Scott and Helen Nearing were political activists who lived in Jamaica, Vermont between 1932 and 1952 and embraced a political philosophy based on simple living, self-sufficiency, sustainable agriculture, cooperation, mutual aid, and radical anti-imperialism. Their 1954 book *Living the Good Life* became the Bible for the hundred thousand or so people who moved to Vermont between 1967 and 1973 searching for the good life.

The reverse of the token bears the proposed flag of the republic, green



with a blue canton bearing 13 five-pointed white stars. This was the flag of the Green Mountain Boys. This side also bears the Vermont State Motto, "Freedom & Unity" and the slogan "Independence". (see NEJV 23)

The token contains one ounce of .999 fine silver and has a mirror-like proof finish. Its value is given as 50

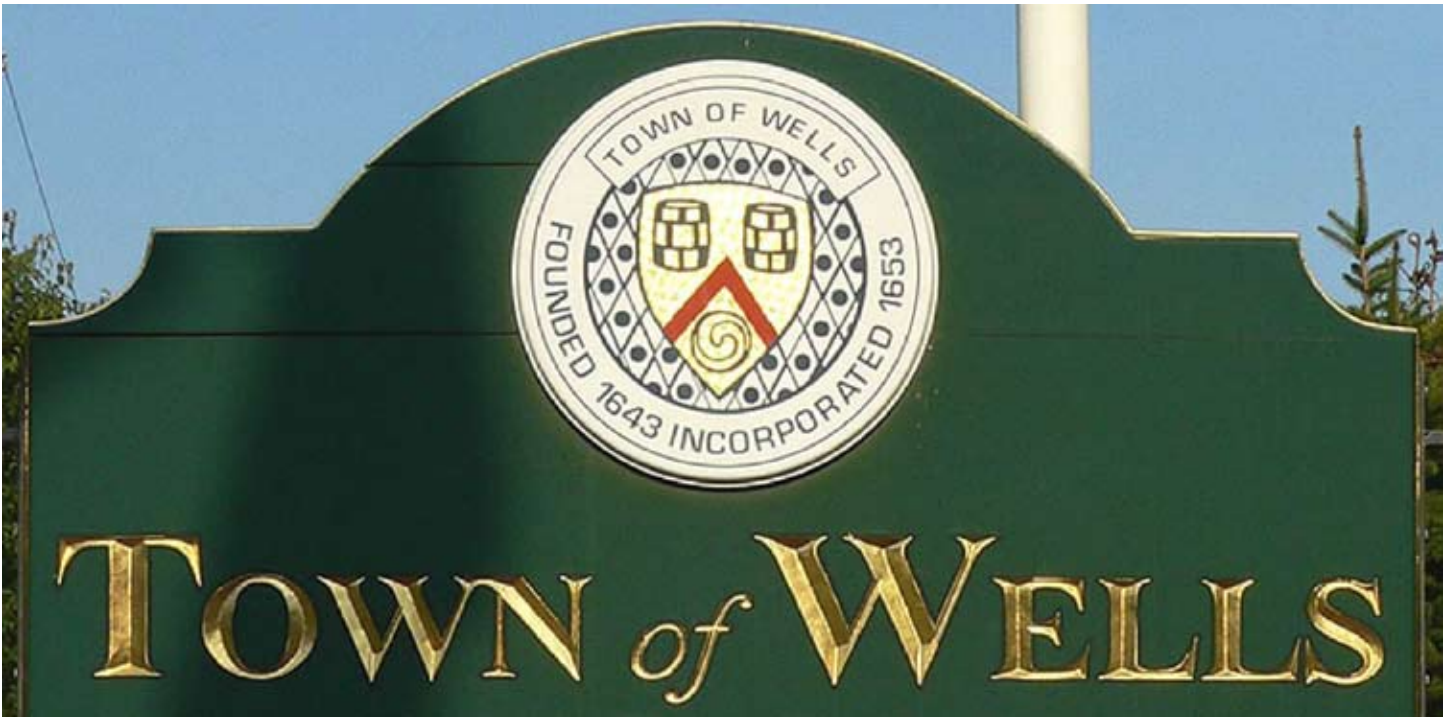
Clovers.

Why clovers, the state flower, instead of dollars, pounds, or euros? As Voltaire once said, "Paper money eventually returns to its intrinsic value - zero." Why peg something of value (silver) to a rapidly declining asset (dollars)? Why not a fresh start with a new yet time tested medium of exchange? Clovers will trade at one to one vs the dollar—for now. Only 500 first strike pieces are currently available to those who contribute to the Second Vermont Republic. For each \$50 you contribute to SVR you are entitled to one token.

Please send your check to: *Second Vermont Republic, P.O. Box 544, Charlotte, VT 05445*

<http://vermontrepublic.org/>

October 6, 2009



Wells, Maine, celebrated its 350th anniversary in 2003. The year-long celebration included a New Year's Eve party with fireworks, parade, a visit by the traveling Russian circus, concerts, historical reenactments, and more.

In 2002, the town commissioned a member of the celebration committee, Kristi Borst, to design a town flag. Her design in black and blue portrays (from top left, counterclockwise) his-

**MAINE**

agriculture (a settler plowing with a horse), a focus on tourism (represented by a train) as well as the 2003 Town Hall, all inset on a white shield-like area on a blue field. Also included is the motto she penned for the project: "Proud of our Past • Ready for our Future" in blue at the bottom, "Town of Wells, Maine" also in blue at the top and the inscription "Est. 1640



— Inc. 1653" in black script in the center.

toric aspects of the Town's settlement (Joseph Storer's garrison),

**The Golden Jubilee of Our Flag**

On July 4, 2010, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our 50-star flag! The TME Co. of New Milford, CT is now offering a great flag design.

Here's a great deal for US delivery—you can purchase an economy imported polyester version, or a 100% U.S.A.-PRODUCED version printed on U.S.-made Nylon.

Imported - Polyester - \$35.00

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Order & pay online at <http://www.tmealf.com/us50.htm>

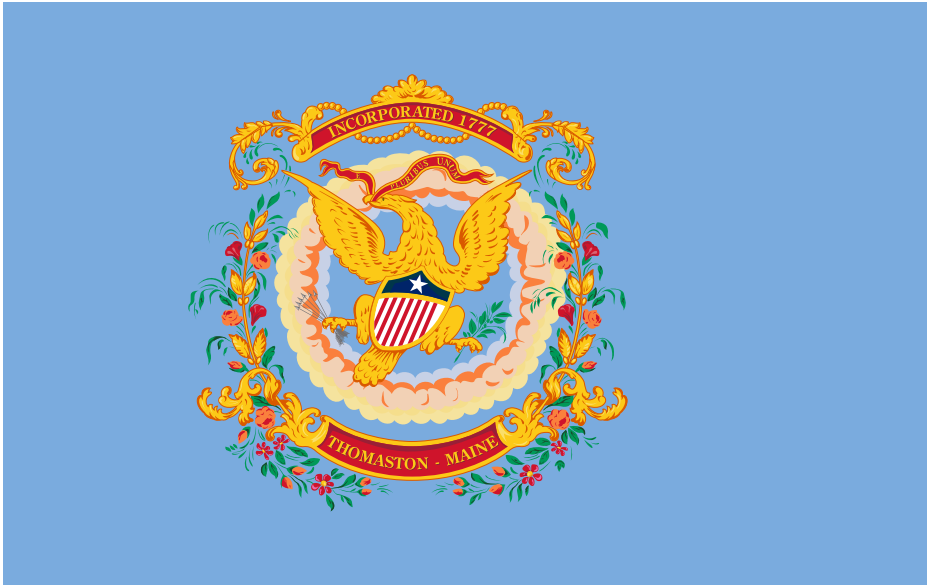
For foreign shipments—please contact us for ordering information. Call or eMail.

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# THOMASTON, MAINE GETS FLAG



Thomaston Town Flag Design by Mario Fabretto November, 2009

## Prayer for the world: Global art project focuses on peace

By Gail Stanton CORRESPONDENT

GARDNER — With a life-guiding determination to be at peace in all he does, art professor Thomas K. Matsuda has taken his personal beliefs to a global level through the creation of an art project involving artists from around the world, which was on display at Mount Wachusett Community College in March, 2009.

Prayer Flags Around the World is a peace effort that combines the talents of artists from 24 countries. The idea for the traveling exhibit came to Mr. Matsuda in 2008, two years after he initiated an art ceremony in Romania on Hiroshima Day.

"It was about two years after my residency in Romania, and I was thinking about the ceremony and came up with the idea to ask those artists to make prayer flags for peace," Mr. Matsuda said.



Art professor Thomas K. Matsuda.

As a Buddhist, he was inspired by Tibetan prayer flags, he added. Peace is at the heart of the Buddhist religion.

The artists who took part in the Romania project agreed to join Mr. Matsuda in his effort, and the collection was created.

While the flags are all made of cloth, they are clearly individual. Some are painted, others have been created with photo printing, and some have fabrics sewn onto them in layers. All speak through the individual artist's voice about peace.

Gail M. Steele, director of theater at the college, has been surprised and pleased by the number of people who have viewed the exhibit. Noting that her office overlooks the exhibit area, she said, "There are many more people stopping than for most exhibits in the art gallery."

The exhibit seems to be having an impact on people, she added. "Our art gallery is also a hallway, so a lot of people walk through there, but with this exhibit, there are a lot of people stopping to look. So it's clearly making them think."

Since the collection was created, Mr. Matsuda has put out the word that other artists are welcome to add

Valmore Blastow, Jr., Town Manager spear-headed a project to get a Town Flag to fly on the new 60-foot Nautical Flagpole at Thomaston Green, the former site of the Maine State Prison. Working with the Board of Selectmen, and Assessors' Agent David Martucci, the flag of the Thomaston Cavalry, (1799-see NEJV #16), served as the basis of the design.

With the help of Peter Orenski of New Milford, Connecticut, Mario Fabretto, considered to be one of the best Vexillographers in the world, was commissioned to make the artwork from the original design.

The flag is described as "A light-blue field upon which shall be the design drawn by Mario Fabretto in November, 2009, which shall be 75% of the hoist in height, centered along the hoist dimension and at a position equal to 1.25 times one-half the hoist dimension (rounded up to the next highest half-foot if necessary) along the fly dimension from the hoist."

to it.

"I don't have any rules for what qualifies an artist at this point," he said. The only rule is that the flags must represent peace.

"And it's up to the artist how they interpret peace," he said.

The collection was subsequently displayed at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and then moved on to France. From there, it headed to Romania and there are plans for a showing in Germany in 2010. Before its travels are done, it is expected to visit the home country of every artist who contributed to it.

"My hope is that it will expand as it travels and that more artists will add to it, eventually taking it out of my hands," Mr. Matsuda said.

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Telegram & Gazette, Worcester, Mass.

<http://www.telegram.com/>



String of peace flags.



## Army Rangers Present Flag

BOSTON, MA - Eight soldiers from the United States Army Rangers presented a Bruins flag to defenseman Mark Stuart prior to the Bruins/Maple Leafs game in a special pregame ceremony at the TD Garden. From February 2, 2009 to September 11, 2009 the Bruins flag was carried into battle with Bravo Company 2-35 Infantry, 3rd Platoon, 25th Infantry Division United States Army during combat patrols supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"This Boston Bruins flag represents the trademark of the Big Bad Bruins, past, present and future," according to Sergeant Lucas Carr, one of the soldiers from Bravo Company presenting the flag to Stuart. "It marks our steadfast devotion in the call to duty on the fight against global terror and the vindication of the thousands of innocent people that perished during the World Trade Center and Pentagon terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001."

The members of Bravo Company that will be participating in the pregame ceremony are SGT Lucas Carr of Boston, SSG. Mark Sollars, SGT. Andrew Zinkievich, SGT. Andrew Rindflesh, SGT. Alick Holland, SGT. Brian Saminego, SGT. Adam Whitney, and SSG. Zach Plante.

Stuart purchased \$5,000 worth of tickets to the Bruins/Panthers game on November 12 for military members and their families, as part of the team's "Military Appreciation Night."

Thursday, 12.10.2009  
<http://bruins.nhl.com/>

## Carmen, Elaine & JoAnn: The Freeport Flag Ladies

From their web site:

As the Freeport Flag Ladies we make the long drive to meet the troop flights whenever possible. Depending upon weather and construction it takes between two and three hours each way. We have greeted thousands of soldiers from all over this great nation who were being deployed or returning home after long deployments.

Each Tuesday morning for the past 7+years the Freeport Flag Ladies have headed up the hill to Main Street to hold large American Flags in remembrance of 9-11 and in honor of our troops. Soldiers home from Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay have joined them as well as families who lost loved ones on 9-11.

We have been especially honored with a Proclamation by the State of Maine and been made life time honorary members of Waves International and the Maine Military Historical Society.

Our mission is non-political. It is



solely an act of love, gratitude and appreciation for the great sacrifices the men and women of the military have given to this nation throughout the ages. We honor and salute the heroes of the first line of defense at home—our fire, police and rescue workers as well as the men and women in the military.

*The Freeport Flag Ladies*  
 17 School St.

Freeport, ME 04032

1-207 865-3414

[ForeverFree@FreeportFlagLadies.com](mailto:ForeverFree@FreeportFlagLadies.com)



Journal photo / Mary Murphy

## R.I. flag back home where it belongs

From left, Master Sgt. James Loffler, R.I. National Guard historian; John Currier of the Pawtuxet Rangers, and Maj. Gen. Robert T. Bray, Rhode Island's adjutant general, unveil the L Troop flag of the 1st R.I. Volunteer Cavalry that was captured by Confederate soldiers 145 years ago. The ceremony today -- part of a party celebrating the R.I.

Guard's 372nd birthday -- marked the return of the flag from the North Carolina Museum of History. Currier is a descendant of Edward Currier, a member of L Troop. The event was held at Varnum Armory in East Greenwich.

Friday, December 12, 2008  
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# MARITIME WARNING FLAGS FLYING ONCE MORE

A rise in distress calls and deaths at sea spurs the Coast Guard to revive the tradition as a boating aid.

By JOHN RICHARDSON, Staff Writer  
*Portland Press Herald* — June 2, 2009

SOUTH PORTLAND — U.S. Coast Guard officials in Maine are reviving an old maritime tradition in hopes that it will help reverse a rise in the number of distress calls and deaths at sea.

The search-and-rescue agency is again flying weather-warning flags on a tower at its station here, the same way the flags were flown along U.S. coasts for more than a century until radio and television took over the weather-warning role in the 1980s.

The red and black flags will be visible around Portland Harbor as fishermen and recreational boaters head out into Casco Bay. They also will be shown on the Internet through a camera that transmits a photo every 30 seconds.

“We think it’s a good time to bring it back,” Capt. James McPherson, Coast Guard commander for Maine and New Hampshire, said during a news conference Monday morning. A red pennant fluttered in the breeze overhead as he spoke, signifying a small-craft advisory.

McPherson said the nautical tradition makes sense now because the Internet will allow more people to see the flags and get “a snapshot” of coastal weather conditions before they head to their boats.

He also said that mariners seem to be underestimating weather and sea conditions and must be reminded of the dangers.

“Since last year, we’ve had a 38 percent increase in our search-and-rescue cases, and we’ve had seven fatalities since November,” McPherson said, noting that some

were directly related to weather conditions and might have been avoided. “The numbers are really kind of shocking right now.”

The fatal accidents involved both commercial fishermen and recreational boats. McPherson and others said several recent cases, including a fatality, have involved kayakers who became caught in difficult conditions.

“Around here, the weather is always the challenge,” he said.

The image of the flags, and an explanation of what each one means, is available on the Maine Coast Guard’s Web site (<http://www.uscg.mil/d1/sectNNE/>) and its Facebook page.

One triangular red pennant means small-craft advisory, or sustained winds of up to 38 mph (33 knots).

Two red pennants mean gale-force winds of 39 to 54 mph (34 to 37 knots).

One rectangular red flag with a black box inside means storm warning or winds of 55 to 73 mph (48 to 63 knots).

Finally, two red rectangular flags with black boxes mean hurricane warning, or winds of at least 74 mph (64 knots).

The flags in South Portland reflect weather and sea conditions from Cape Porpoise to Cape Small, out to 25 miles from shore.

McPherson and others said the flags are just a quick way to check conditions and should not be considered a substitute for checking more detailed weather reports before a voyage.

“We think it’s important that

we provide mariners with all different types of information,” McPherson said.

“We hope that it’s another tool to make mariners aware and other coastal residents aware of dangerous weather conditions.”

The flags might be especially helpful to kayakers or other boaters who don’t have marine radios and might not otherwise know that conditions outside the harbor have worsened, officials said.

“They’ll be able to look up at the tower and see what the weather conditions will be,” said Jeffrey Liick, Portland harbor master. “The storm flags have a great tradition.”

John Jensenius, warnings coordinator for the National Weather Service in Gray, said mariners need to do their homework, checking forecasts on the marine radio or the Internet, before going to sea.

He said having the flags fly over the harbor is a good, visible reminder and one last way to check conditions at the start of a voyage.

“You want to read the details, but if they’re out there and the conditions change, it’s kind of a quick indicator,” he said.

“The weather in New England can change very rapidly.”

*Staff Writer John Richardson can be contacted at 791-6324 or at*

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## Storm Warnings

Storm and hurricane forecasts and warnings are issued by NOAA's [National Hurricane Center](#). Boaters and coastal residents can get storm and hurricane information from VHF [marine radios](#), commercial radio and television stations and newspapers, or [NOAA weather radios](#).

In some areas, [warning flags](#) are flown to warn boaters of dangerous weather conditions.





### Daytime Signals

Here are some of the flags you may see on our storm cam.

Small Craft Advisory:	Gale Warning:	Storm Warning:	Hurricane Warning:
			
To alert mariners to sustained (more than two hours) weather or sea conditions, either present or forecast, that might be hazardous to small boats. The threshold conditions for the Small Craft Advisory are usually 18 knots of wind (less than 18 knots in some dangerous waters) or hazardous wave conditions.	A warning of winds within the range of 39 – 54 mph (34 – 47 knots). Gale warnings may precede or accompany a hurricane watch.	A warning of winds within the range of 55 – 73 mph (48 – 63 knots).	A warning that indicates that hurricane winds of 74 mph (64 knots) and higher, or a combination of dangerously high water and rough seas, are expected to impact a specified coastal area. When a hurricane warning is announced, hurricane conditions are considered imminent and may begin immediately, or at least within the next 12 to 24 hours. When a warning is announced, it is of utmost importance that precautionary measures are taken for protection of life and property.

### Night (Light) Signals

We also have Night (Light) Signals installed. Here are some possible light combinations you may see.

Small Craft Advisory:	Gale Warning:	Storm Warning:	Hurricane Warning:
			
Red over White.	White over Red.	Red over Red.	Red over White over Red.

# MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14, 2009 MEETING AT FORT INDEPENDENCE

## ATTENDING

President Carl Gurtman, Secretary/Treasurer Dave Martucci, members Tom Hale, and guest Mark Gendreau.

## CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 1:14 p.m. by President Gurtman.

A Get Well card for Robert Lloyd Wheelock was signed by all expressing the fact that we miss him at our meeting.

## MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

MOTION by Hale, SECONDED by Gurtman to accept the minutes of the 12/13/08 meeting as written and ACCEPTED by acclamation.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer reported there we had \$481.75 in the checking account as of 6/13/09. Also reported was that we currently have 37 dues paying members and one honorary member. On a MOTION by Hale, SECONDED by Gurtman, the Treasurer's report was ACCEPTED by acclamation.

## OLD BUSINESS

Meetings are somewhat underattended. A discussion of ways to improve that was held. We all agree that we like the

meetings so they will continue.

President Gurtman explained the MIT Flag acquisition. It was agreed that the Secretary will notify the other members of the flags and solicit bids on them.

## NEW BUSINESS

A discussion of the upcoming NAVA Meeting in Charleston, SC, was held.

## ROUND TABLE

Tom showed his British Ensign collection, some 4x6 inch flags with metal finials (US Eagle, Star of David, and Maryland Cross). He also showed a series of flags he bought on the internet.

Dave showed some newly acquired historic flag replicas. These included two different versions of the 1st Continental Regimental flag by two different manufacturers. He donated one of them to the collection of Fort Independence.

Carl showed a number of flag books he recently purchased, some of which were unfamiliar to the rest of the company.

A general discussion of flags ensued. Following the Round Table, President Gurtman presented the Friends of Fort Independence with the very large, two-



*Dave Martucci raises a replica of the Ft. Independence Flag on the fort's mast.*

sided Massachusetts Flag that was donated by MIT to NEVA. Accepting the flag, Tom Hale representing the Friends said it would find a place in the big hall used for ceremonies.

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be decided on by the President on a date and at a place to be announced. He will try to get an exciting venue to hopefully attract more members.

## ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Dave Martucci

Secretary/Treasurer

# NEXT MEETING AT BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS



*The Bedford Flag, reverse (left) and obverse (right) as it appears today.*

The next meeting of NEVA will be held at **1:00 p.m.** on **Saturday, April 17th, 2010** in the **Conference Room** at the **Bedford Free Public Library**, 7 Mudge Way in Bedford, Massachusetts. The library is one block off Great Road (also highways 4, 62, and 225) in the center of Bedford's Historic District and directions can be found online at [bedfordlibrary.net](http://bedfordlibrary.net) or contact Dave

Martucci. The library is the home of the famous Bedford Flag, used on April 19, 1775 during the first battle of the American Revolution.

On the agenda at this meeting will be the election of Secretary/Treasurer.

Call Dave at 845-2857 (or email [vex@vexman.net](mailto:vex@vexman.net)) if you need a ride.

The *New England Journal of Vexillology* is published irregularly by the New England Vexillological Association, Dave Martucci, Editor. Annual membership dues in NEVA is \$10 for a single class of membership and this fee includes a subscription to the *Journal*. In addition to the print version, there is an online edition of the *Journal* found at URL <http://www.midcoast.com/~martucci/neva/nejv.html>.

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