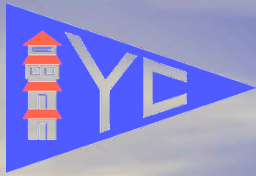




FLAG ETIQUETTE

Robert F. Sapita

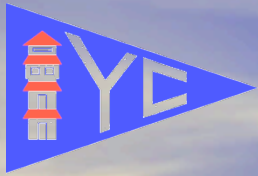
Tower Harbour Yacht Club
International Order of the Blue Gavel



History



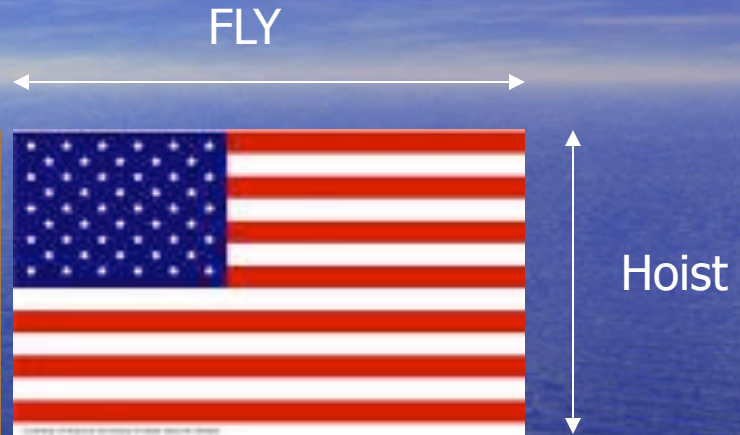
- **Flags & Banners Used Throughout History**
 - Old Testament
 - Clou Dynasty 1122 BC
 - Europe in Middle Ages
 - Kings
 - Cities
 - Guilds
 - Denmark (1219 AD) Oldest "Colors"
- "Colors" Refers Only To National Flags



Terminology



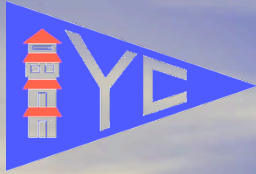
- American Flag
- National Ensign



Flag Pole / Mast / Staff

- Yacht Ensign



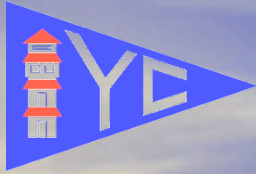


Flag Types



- National
 - Courtesy
- Yacht Club
- Officer
- Private
- Class
- Code

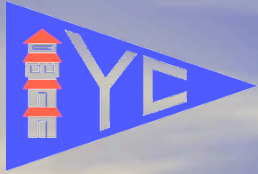
**Flags are a Language &
Placement is the Grammar**



Our Flag



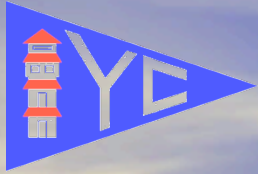
- Display Governed by Federal Law
- Always in Highest Place of Honor
- Always to Left of Audience (changed in 1976)
- Only Pres. & Gov. Can Authorize 1/2 Mast
- Eagle is the Only Proper Finial
- National Ensign....8:00am to Sunset
- First UP & Last Down



Nautical/Yacht Ensign

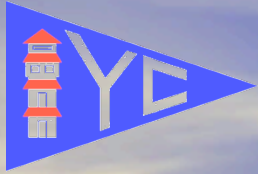


- Underway
 - At Stern (Center Preferred or Starboard)
 - Peak of the Gaff
 - 2/3 Up the Leach of Aftermost Sail
 - Fishing Boat: Dedicated Staff on Tuna Tower
- In Port
 - At Stern
- Size
 - Power: 1" per Foot
 - Sail: 1/2" per Foot of Mast



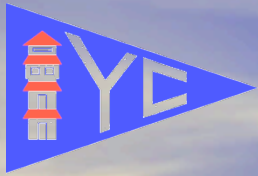
Good Grammar





Bad Grammar

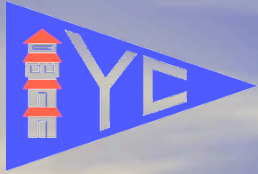




Yacht Ensign



- 1799 Clear Customs Law
- 1848 Congress: Display 'Special Flag' for Documented Vessels Port-to-Port (NYYC)
- 1939 Sec. of Navy Recognition
- 1980 Provisions of 1848 Law Repealed
- Never Fly in International Waters
- Has NO Legal Status as American Flag
- Oldest Unchanged Flag in Amer. History

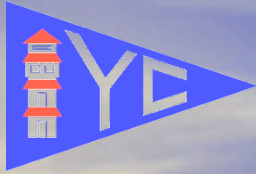


Power Squadron



- Members Only
- Passed Piloting & Small Boat Handling
- Preferred Locations
 - Starboard Spreader on Sail
 - In Place of National Ensign on Smaller Boats*

*USPS is not an agency of USA, best to use some other vertical spar

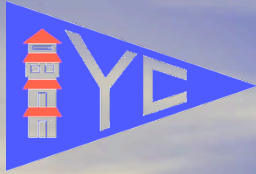


Courtesy Flags



- National Flags
- When to Fly:
 - In Foreign Waters or Port*
 - Person of that Nationality Aboard
- Placement:
 - Starboard Spreader (Sail)
 - Bow Staff (Power)
- DO NOT Fly to Show Where You've Been

* Not just good manners but a necessity in countries that take flag etiquette seriously, e.g., Bahamas!



Courtesy Flags Cont'd

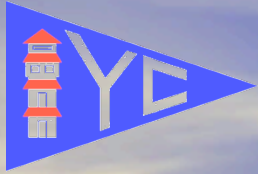


- Proper Etiquette



- Improper Etiquette

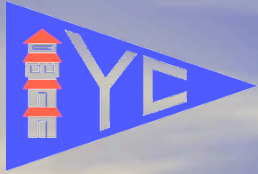




Yacht Club Burgees



- Only by Club Members
- Placement:
 - Masthead on Sailing Vessel
 - Starboard Spreader (Sail)
 - Bow Staff (Power)
- Only One!



Yacht Club Burgees

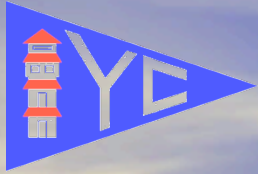


- Proper Etiquette



- Improper Etiquette

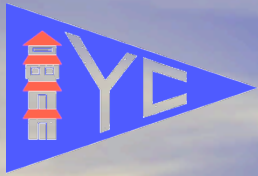




Officer's Flags



- 8 Flags in Use Today (Not Universal)
- Display:
 - Day & Night When Aboard
 - Power
 - Masthead
 - Radio Ant
 - Sail
 - Aftermost Mast of Two-masted Vessel
 - Starboard Spreader
 - Club House
 - Flag Pole
 - Dinning Room



Officer's Flags Cont'd

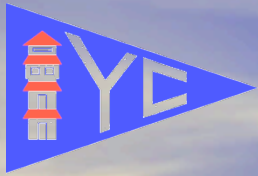


- Proper Etiquette



- Improper Etiquette



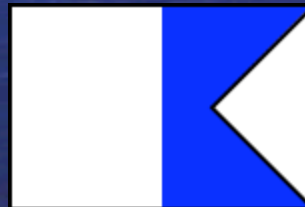


Other Flags



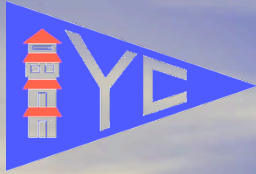
- Private (In Place of Burgee)
- Other
 - Owner Absent, Meal Flag, Marlin, etc.
 - Racing Code Flags
 - Class Flags (Bow Pulpit or Backstay)
 - Divers Down

- Official is "Alpha"



- Dockery is Most Familiar

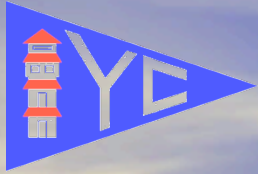




Signal Flags



- Alpha-Numeric
- 1897 British Board of Trade
 - 156 Page Book (Pub. No. 107)
 - Required, e. g., Newport – Bermuda Race
- Only From Port Spreader, Absolutely Improper to Fly From Starboard!
- Dressing Ship
 - Alpha-Alpha-No, Alpha-Alpha-No,....
 - Water to Water



Signal Examples

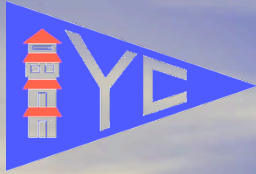


- 1 Flag: Diver Down, Yes, Need Medical Help
- 2 Flags: Distress/Maneuvering

AD = I am abandoning my vessel which has suffered a nuclear accident and is a possible source of radiation danger

<http://www.wingood.com/flagselect.asp>

INTERNATIONAL FLAGS AND PENNANTS					
ALPHABET FLAGS				NUMERAL PENNANTS	
Alfa Diver Down, Keep Clear		Kilo Desire to Communicate		Uniform Standing into Danger	
Bravo Dangerous Cargo		Lima Stop Instantly		Victor Require Assistance	
Charlie Yes		Mike I Am Stopped		Whiskey Require Medical Assistance	
Delta Keep Clear		November No		Xray Stop Your Intention	
Echo Altering Course to Starboard		Oscar Man Overboard		Yankee Am Dragging Anchor	
Foxtrot Disabled		Papa About to Sail		Zulu Require a Tug	
Golf Want a Pilot		Quebec Request Practice		REPEATERS	
Hotel Pilot on Board		Romeo Engines Going Astern		1st Repeat	
India Altering Course to Port		Sierra Engines Going Astern		2nd Repeat	
Juliett On Fire, Keep Clear		Tango Keep Clear of Me		3rd Repeat	
				CODE	
				Code and Answering Pennant (Decimal Point)	

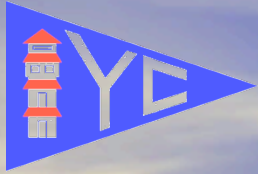


Special Signal



- **Quarantine**

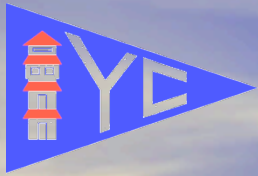
- Fly alone
 - Starboard Spreader –Sail
 - Bow Staff- Power
- Replace with courtesy flag after clearing Customs & Immigration



How Bad Can IT Get?

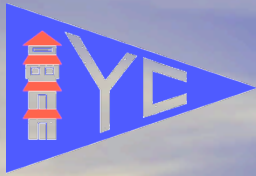


Catalina Assoc.
Catalina 360
Catalina 21
Commodore
BVI
Conch Republic
New Zealand
Canada



Helpful Tips

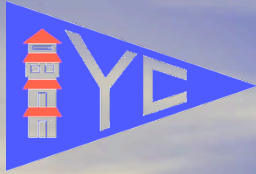




Summary



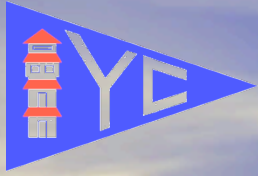
- Honor, Respect, Tradition
- What's the 'Real' Message?
- Priorities
 - National, YC, Officer, Private, Class, Code
- National Ensign on Stern
- Starboard Is Side of Honor
- Less is More



References



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Thank You