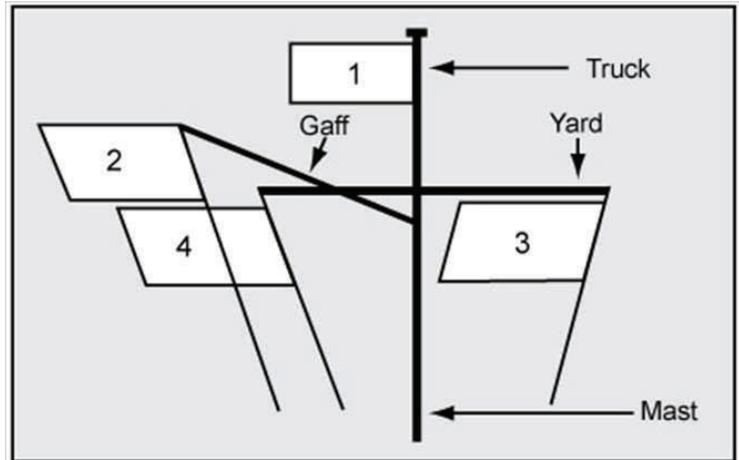


How to Properly Fly the American Flag

In the Summer of 2009 Landings Apartment Community raised a beautiful nautical flag pole at the main entrance of the community. Since then the stunning, prominent structure has awed passerbyers and community members alike. Landings is proud to provide the Middletown, RI community with a such an iconic display of American freedom. In an effort to educate the community on proper flag etiquette; we are happy to provide you with the below information given to us by the United States Navy Protocol Office outlining how to properly fly the American Flag in a maritime setting.



A View of Landings' Nautical Flag Pole From Coddington Highway - August 2009



Display in Maritime Setting

For the most part, the provisions of the Flag Code are manifest in the traditions and customs for the display of the U.S. Ensign (flag) by seamen. The following provisions are made for the display of the flag on a mast located on yacht club grounds. (*Chapman Piloting: Seamanship and Small Boat Handling*, American Book-Stratford Press, Inc., New York, NY)

1. Single Mast (no Yard or Gaff)

- U.S. Ensign (flag) is flown at the truck (#1).
- All other flags are pennants flown below U.S. Ensign.

2. Mast with Yard:

- U.S. Ensign (flag) is flown at the truck (#1).
- Club burgee (flag) is flown at the starboard (right) yard arm (#3).

3. Mast with a Yard and Gaff:

- U.S. Ensign (flag) is flown at the gaff (#2).
- Club burgee (flag) is flown at the truck (#1).
- Flags at #3 and #4 vary depending on the activity at the club.

It is display #3 which causes the most confusion. This puts the club burgee in a higher position physically, but not above that of the U.S. Ensign (flag) symbolically. By the normal Flag Code provisions, this would seem to be an incorrect display. The tradition of the seas, however, is to hold the gaff as the position of honor; thus, the intent of this tradition and display is to give proper respect to the flag.

Where a yard is involved, rules provide that when a foreign ensign is displayed, the U.S. Ensign (flag) is flown at #3; the foreign ensign at #4; the club burgee at #1; and other flags at #2.

The gaff extends aft (to the rear), and a mast on yacht club grounds is faced seaward. Therefore the gaff will (or should) be directed toward the land. The observation point then becomes a point somewhere on the sea side of the mast. This then makes the placement of the U.S. Ensign (flag) in regard to the foreign ensign conform to Flag Code provisions.