



Washington State Ferries



Washington State
Department of Transportation

Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



May 8, 2015

This week:

- May is Bike to Work month
- Successful weekend of repairs at Coupeville terminal
- Drill highlights importance of preparation, coordination and emergency response to a critical incident
- Maritime Career Day
- Mark your calendar for the *Samish* christening and open house!
- Plan ahead for Memorial Day weekend
- Customer compliment

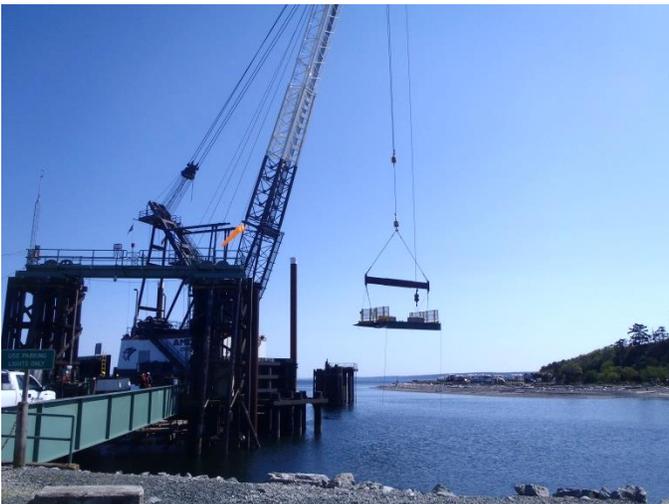
May is Bike to Work month

We're proud to carry hundreds of [daily bike commuters](#) and more than 300,000 cyclists on our routes every year. Recently, we made it easier and safer to ride on and off the ferry at the Bainbridge Island terminal by installing rubber gap fillers on the [apron](#), the moveable hinge connecting the ferry to the transfer span. These small pieces of rubber (pictured below) help prevent narrow bicycle wheels from getting stuck in the grooves.



Successful weekend of repairs at Coupeville terminal

I'm pleased to report that last weekend's critical safety repairs to the Coupeville terminal transfer span were successful. Work to replace the 21-foot-long movable bridge, and 14-ton hinge finished in time to reopen the route with the 6:30 a.m. departure on Monday from Port Townsend, as promised. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to those customers who took alternate routes while Port Townsend/Coupeville was out of service. The photo below shows the new bridge apron assembly being flown in with a derrick barge crane.



Drill highlights importance of preparation, coordination and emergency response to a critical incident

While the Port Townsend/Coupeville route was out of service last weekend for repairs, WSF participated in a multi-agency active shooter/mass casualty training drill. The simulation used the ferry *Kennewick* and the Port Townsend terminal to practice what would happen if there was an emergency on one of our ferries. This type of training and coordination with local agencies is critical to preparing our crews and management teams for a real-life emergency. I encourage you to read this excellent [article](#) in the Peninsula Daily News about the exercise and the immense planning and preparation that went into making it such a successful day.

Maritime Career Day

On Tuesday, WSF participated in the 17th Annual Maritime Career Day, which aims to increase awareness of the importance of the maritime industry to our community. Attendees had the opportunity to meet with representatives from more than 30 businesses, maritime organizations and training schools. Terminal Supervisor Tami Shapley, Oiler Chris Paneris (pictured left to right), Staff Chief Engineer Eric Liu, and Chief Mate Rob Rothschiller represented WSF and shared information about their careers. We always love giving information about what it's like to [work for the largest ferry system in the United States](#), so this was a great opportunity.



Mark your calendar for the *Samish* christening and open house!

Remember to mark your calendar for the *Samish* christening and open house on May 20 at the Anacortes terminal. Drop by anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to tour the vessel and enjoy complementary refreshments, entertainment and activities for kids. The christening ceremony will begin at 1:30 p.m. Event details are available [here](#).

Plan ahead for Memorial Day weekend

Memorial Day weekend is fast approaching. Reservations are highly recommended for the Anacortes/San Juan Islands and Sidney, B.C. routes, as well as Port Townsend/Coupeville. Drivers without reservations will be loaded as space allows, and may have to wait due to heavy vehicle traffic. Starting yesterday, May 7, through Tuesday, May 12, we are releasing the second tier of vehicle space, or 30% of vessel capacity, on all Anacortes/San Juan Islands sailings. Remember, the second tier is released two weeks before your sailing date. Sailings are filling fast. For example, I encourage folks planning their return trip for Memorial Day, May 25, to go online at 7 a.m. Monday, May 11, to book a return sailing. If the one you want is full, or you need to make your plans closer to the travel date, you will have one more opportunity when we release the third tier of reservations. The final 30% becomes available two days before the sailing. Please reserve online at www.takeaferry.com or by calling 511.

Customer compliment

Here's a great comment from a customer who traveled from Lopez Island to Anacortes:

Anacortes "D" Watch and Captain Alex [Johnson] found my purse and baby carrier and called me ... to let me know. We had just gotten off the ferry and we [were] so grateful! The entire crew was great. Please thank them for us and keep up the great work!

Elizabeth Kosa
Chief of Staff, WSDOT/Ferries Division

Hyperlinks in this email:

Bicycles on Washington State Ferries: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/bicycles>

Terminal diagram: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/NR/rdonlyres/9CC501DE-DC2C-4420-892E-129F1F75810B/0/Terminallsometric.JPG>

Peninsula Daily News article: <http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20150504/news/305049967>

Washington State Ferries employment: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/yourwsf/employment/>

Samish christening and open house event details: <http://wsdotferries.blogspot.com/2015/04/youre-invited-to-our-samish-open-house.html>

Online vehicle reservations: www.takeaferry.com

Weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.

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