



Washington State Ferries



Washington State
Department of Transportation

Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



May 15, 2015

This week:

- San Juan Islander editorial: "It's time to get real about reservations"
- Follow-up on the *Tacoma* service disruption
- Join us for the *Samish* christening and open house!
- Be prepared for busy weekends
- Customer compliment

San Juan Islander editorial: "It's time to get real about reservations"

I really enjoyed seeing the recent San Juan Islander editorial "[It's time to get real about reservations.](#)" It clarifies many of the myths that we frequently hear about the new San Juan Islands reservations program and is a great read. I encourage you to read it and share it with folks planning to travel to the San Juan Islands.

Follow-up on the *Tacoma* service disruption

Last Friday, May 8, the *Tacoma* was transiting from Bainbridge to Seattle on the 3:50 p.m. sailing when it lost throttle control from the bridge. No one was hurt and the vessel received tugboat assistance to tie up safely at the Seattle terminal. It turns out that one of the two propulsion alternators online at the time tripped off-line as a result of a reverse power trip. Once the vessel was secured, troubleshooting by the engineering crew found a loose wire that provides power to a protective relay. Because the 24-volt power for other control and protective devices were wired sequentially, all devices downstream from the affected relay lost power, which in turn caused the loss of propulsion control. With the busy Seattle/Bainbridge route down to only one vessel at the start of the evening commute period, we made the decision to bring the *Issaquah* from the Fautleroy/Vashon/Southworth route to Seattle/Bainbridge so we could get our customers home as quickly as possible. Colman Dock was clear by 7:30 p.m. that night.

I recognize that pulling the *Issaquah* off the triangle route impacted customers there. I apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for your patience. As we didn't have a spare vessel available that is able to serve Seattle/Bainbridge Island, this was simply the best option out of all the difficult choices we faced. Thankfully, the *Tacoma* returned to service at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 9. Our staff is gathering information on what went wrong and we will certainly be investigating the incident thoroughly.

Join us for the *Samish* christening and open house!

Please join us to welcome the second Olympic Class ferry, *Samish*, to the fleet at an open house and christening event next Wednesday at the Anacortes ferry terminal. Drop by anytime between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to tour the vessel and enjoy complimentary refreshments. At 1:30 p.m., there will be a ceremony by the Samish Indian Nation, and First Lady Trudi Inslee will christen the new vessel. Event details are available [here](#).



Be prepared for busy weekends

We are entering our busiest season of the year. The nice weather means more travelers and additional traffic at and around our terminals, especially during community festivals and events. Customers are advised to arrive early on weekends. Expect heavier traffic and longer wait times westbound Thursday evening, Friday afternoon and evening, and Saturday morning, and eastbound on Sunday and Monday. Look [online](#) for best travel times, and please consider traveling outside of peak times.

Customer compliment

Here's a nice comment about the reservations program:

I just want to compliment the people that are involved in the design and implementation of the ferry reservation program. It sure has been a long time in coming and has taken out the stress of not making a sailing. Thanks to all the [WSF] staff that have worked on this.

Lynne Griffith
Assistant Secretary WSDOT/Ferries Division

Hyperlinks in this email:

San Juan Islander editorial: <http://sanjuanislander.com/opinion/editorials/18945/it-s-time-to-get-real-about-reservations>

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

Best travel times: <http://www.wsdot.com/ferries/schedule/Default.aspx>

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

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