



Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



May 22, 2015

This week:

- Official welcome for the *Samish*
- Tour of Dakota Creek Industries
- WSF launches new travel alert language
- Breakfast on the *Walla Walla*
- Memorial Day message

Official welcome for the *Samish*

On Wednesday, we officially welcomed the new Olympic Class ferry *Samish* with an open house and christening celebration at the Anacortes terminal. Over 400 people joined us for the event. The Samish Indian Nation performed a very moving and inspirational invocation and honoring ceremony and Washington's first lady, Trudi Inslee, christened the vessel. I wish to thank our speakers and others who participated in the ceremony including Mrs. Inslee, Rep. Judy Clibborn, Rep. Jeff Morris, Anacortes Mayor Laurie Gere, San Juan County Council Member Rick Hughes, members of the San Juan County Ferry Advisory Committee, former Washington State Transportation Commissioner Tom Cowan, and Vigor Industrial CEO Frank Foti. I also sincerely appreciate the hard work that the deck and engine room crews and the Anacortes terminal staff put into preparing for the event and making the *Samish* shine. It was a wonderful day. One of the highlights was seeing the happy faces of people enjoying the entertainment and food and exploring our newest ferry. *Samish* will begin service on the Anacortes/San Juan Islands route on June 14.



Tom Wooten, Chairman of the Samish Indian Nation, and a tribal member present Lynne Griffith with a blanket



Lynne Griffith speaks as members of the Samish Indian Nation look on



House Transportation Committee Chair Judy Clibborn (D-Mercer Island) addresses the crowd



First Lady Trudi Inslee christens the Samish

Tour of Dakota Creek Industries

On Thursday, I had the opportunity to visit Dakota Creek Industries in Anacortes to meet with owner Dick Nelson and members of his management team. We toured the shipyard and discussed their longtime role in providing WSF with emergency vessel repairs and dry-docking services. I learned a lot about the shipbuilding industry here in Washington and developed a deeper appreciation for the work that goes into keeping our ferries in good condition.

WSF launches new travel alert language

On May 19, we began using updated travel alert language to address customer concerns and provide better information about ferry service delays and cancelled sailings. We will no longer be using the term “operational constraints.” The new language was developed in partnership with staff and union representatives to explain the reason for a delay and provide basic, factual information that our customers can use to make their travel plans. As we enter the busy summer season, I encourage you to sign up for [email alerts](#) to receive the latest service information.

Breakfast on the Walla Walla

We all know breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and who better to share it with than the crews who keep our vessels running nearly 24/7 every day of the year. On Thursday, Chief of Staff Elizabeth Kosa and members of our management team joined the crew of the *Walla Walla* for breakfast. We plan to make this a new tradition and look forward to sharing meals with other crews throughout the fleet. Pictured below are (left to right) Linnaea Jablonski (HR Assistant Manager), Elizabeth Stowell (Chief Mate), Capt. Tim Koivu (Staff Master), Cindy Amo (AB), and Jay Mooney (Port Captain) out on the Edmonds/Kingston route.



Memorial Day message

We're expecting heavy traffic as people take advantage of the three-day Memorial Day weekend. Remember to arrive early, and check [online](#) for the latest service updates and [best times to travel](#). I wish everyone a very happy, safe and sunny holiday!

Lynne Griffith
Assistant Secretary WSDOT/Ferries Division

Hyperlinks in this email:

Email alerts: <https://secure1.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/account/index.cfm?type=Alerts>

WSF home page: <http://wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/>

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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