



Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



May 29, 2015

This week:

- Ordinary seaman training
- Tahlequah terminal apron lip replacement
- Memorial Day weekend ridership increases
- WSF employee wins Washington State Extra Mile Award

Ordinary seaman training

This week, Transportation Secretary Lynn Peterson and I started a two-week Ordinary Seaman New Employee Orientation course. This is the intensive training that all new WSF deck crew must pass to qualify to work on our vessels as an ordinary seaman. Our goal is to experience firsthand what it's like to enter this organization, and to learn more about the extraordinary training that our crews have. It's been quite an experience. This week, we received briefings on safety and security, how to operate a tow tractor (known as "the bull"), emergency alarms, and operation of the transfer span that connects a vessel to the terminal. The course has been challenging and endlessly fascinating so far. On Sunday, we begin personal survival training. I will share more details next week. Pictured below on the left, Secretary Peterson learns how to drive the bull. On the right, instructor Greg Faust shows me and other trainees how to operate the transfer span.



Tahlequah terminal apron lip replacement

Employees, customers and neighbors living near the Point Defiance and Tahlequah terminals have long complained about the noise vehicles make driving on and off the ferry. In response, terminal maintenance crews replaced four of seven apron lips at Point Defiance last year. An apron lip is the part of the transfer span that connects the ferry to the dock. Next week, on June 3 and 4, we will make improvements at Tahlequah to help make the apron lip quieter. All of the work will be done at night in order to keep the Point Defiance/Tahlequah route open for service during the day. Neighbors can expect to see and hear crews working at night and may hear construction equipment. We will work as quickly and quietly as possible, but I sincerely apologize in advance for any inconvenience this night construction may cause.

Memorial Day weekend ridership increases

Preliminary ridership numbers are in and they show that Memorial Day weekend sure was busy! From May 21-26, we carried over 435,000 total riders and system-wide ridership increased about 4 percent from the same weekend last year. Ridership from Anacortes to the San Juan Islands was up about 6 percent compared to 2014. The Port Townsend/Coupeville route had the largest change in total ridership, with a 17 percent increase. If you want to check out other annual traffic and ridership statistics, visit us [online](#).

WSF employee wins Washington State Extra Mile Award

I am so pleased to congratulate Catherine Anderson, Eagle Harbor Safety Officer, on receiving a Washington State Extra Mile Award. Extra Mile Awards are given by the Washington Secretary of State to individuals or groups who surpass expectations for exemplary public service. Catherine Anderson (pictured below with Secretary of State Kim Wyman) has made many outstanding contributions to WSF, including continually maintaining and attaining certifications, qualifications and skills to address the safety concerns and needs of Eagle Harbor, and coordinating a safety program for 120 employees within nine different marine trades. This award is well deserved. Congratulations Catherine and thank you for all your hard work and dedication.



Lynne Griffith
Assistant Secretary WSDOT/Ferries Division

Hyperlink in this email:

Traffic and ridership statistics: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/traffic_stats/

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

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