



Washington State Ferries



# Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



June 12, 2015

## This week:

- Welcome to our newest group of Ordinary Seamen
- Ferry *Chelan* passes through the Ballard locks
- No reservation? Standby space often available on San Juan Islands sailings
- Summer schedule starts Sunday
- Bainbridge Island Magazine features WSF

## Welcome to our newest group of Ordinary Seamen

On Wednesday, our Ordinary Seaman (OS) training course for spring 2015 officially concluded. Transportation Secretary Lynn Peterson and I were among the 11 graduates of the two-week course. During our last few days we participated in emergency exercises, practiced the deck duties that an OS performs on a daily basis, heard about the importance of treating our customers like guests and learned basic navigation and rules of the road. We also trained in controlling the vessel's rudder and setting and changing course. The photos below show me controlling the rudder on the *Walla Walla* and holding a line during a rescue boat drill.



## Ferry *Chelan* passes through the Ballard locks

On its way to Eagle Harbor for annual USCG maintenance and inspection, the *Chelan* passed through the Hiram M. Chittenden Locks early Monday morning. It's the largest ferry that can fit through the locks at 78-feet-wide and as long as a football field. Plenty of local shutterbugs came out to snap photos as *Chelan* squeaked through with only a foot to spare on either side! *Chelan* was at Lake Union Drydock Company for nine weeks while crews painted sections of the ferry's interior and passenger deck. It took more than 4,200 gallons of paint to get the job done. Repainting a vessel helps preserve the structure by preventing corrosion of the metal from the harsh elements in the marine environment. Vessels need to be painted approximately every seven years. The *Chelan* will return to service on the Anacortes/Sidney BC route on Sunday.



### **No reservation? Standby space often available on San Juan Islands sailings**

If you need to travel to or from the San Juan Islands at the last minute or can't make a reservation for the day you want to travel, I encourage you to try to travel standby. For customers that don't mind foregoing the predictability that a reservation brings, it's always a good idea to show up at the terminal so you can travel when space becomes available. While you may not always get on the sailing of your choice, we often have space available when people don't show up for their reservations or when reservation holders end up traveling at a different time. Just remember that priority for standby space on every sailing goes to emergency vehicles and customers with medical priority loading status.

### **Summer schedule starts Sunday**

If you're planning to travel this weekend, remember that the [summer 2015 sailing schedule](#) takes effect on Sunday, June 14. This includes more sailings, our [newest Olympic Class ferry Samish](#), and increased service on many routes. The summer schedule runs through Sept. 19.

### **Bainbridge Island Magazine features WSF**

For many of our regular customers, the ferry system is a part of their daily lives and is woven into their lifestyle and routine. This article, "[All About That Boat: Bainbridge Reflects on Ferry Life](#)," in the June issue of Bainbridge Island Magazine, highlights how "ferries are the warp and woof of life on Bainbridge." I encourage you to enjoy this wonderful read!

Lynne Griffith  
Assistant Secretary WSDOT/Ferries Division

Summer 2015 sailing schedule: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/pdf/2015Summer.pdf>

Olympic Class photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/17063236636/in/album-72157627905126905/>

Bainbridge Island Magazine article: <http://mag.bainbridgeisland.com/publication/?i=259975&ver=html5&p=48>

Weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly).

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