



# Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



June 26, 2015

## This week:

- *Kittitas* crew transports patient
- Transportation Commission asks for comments on proposed fare increases
- WSF welcomes employees' children aboard for Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
- Raising funds for WSF employees in need
- Rainbow Pride flag flying high this weekend
- Kudos to WSF's Director of Terminal Engineering
- Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!

### **Kittitas crew transports patient**

Not only is WSF a critical part of the state highway system, but we're often called on to be a marine ambulance as well. I would like to commend Captain Ward Benham, Chief Engineer Anthony Kazman and the entire *Kittitas* crew for their outstanding performance early last Saturday morning. Upon learning a woman in labor was heading to the Clinton terminal by ambulance, they quickly prepared to get underway. When the ambulance arrived, they immediately loaded the vehicle and patient and headed for Mukilteo, before the regular service day even began. Our crew's readiness, quick response and "can do" attitude ensured the safe delivery of the patient and meant the *Kittitas* made it back to Clinton in time for its regularly scheduled 5:30 a.m. departure. It's this kind of response that makes the ferry system such a special part of the communities we serve and a vital link across Puget Sound.

### **Transportation Commission asks for comments on proposed fare increases**

The Washington State Transportation Commission is asking for comments on a new fare proposal that would take effect this October and increase ferry fares over the next two years. The commission will be holding three in-person public input meetings and one online, virtual public meeting. Comments can also be submitted by email and [online](#). More information on the proposed two-year increase in ferry fares and public input opportunities is available [online](#).

### **WSF welcomes employees' children aboard for Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day**

On Thursday, WSF and other Washington state agencies celebrated Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day. We invited parents to bring their children to work to share what they do every day and show them a side of the ferry system they've probably never seen. Over 25 employees and their kids rode the *Wenatchee* to Bainbridge Island and back. Along the way they got to tour the wheelhouse and engine room and hear from crew members what it's like to work for the largest ferry system in the country. Highlights included blowing the horn and holding a huge wrench in the engine room. Thank you to all the deck and engine crew and other staff who made this event possible. As you can tell in the photos below, we had some very happy children and parents!



### **Raising funds for WSF employees in need**

AFFECT (Active Ferry Employees Charitable Trust) is a nonprofit volunteer group of WSF employees that assists fellow employees and their families in times of need created by unforeseen circumstances. This wonderful organization hosts our annual holiday cruise and other events throughout the year. On Thursday, I climbed up to the roof of WSF headquarters to join staff for “Dogs on the Roof.” Grilling hotdogs and sharing lunch in the sun was a great way to kick off summer and celebrate the important work AFFECT does throughout the year. The event raised over \$900 dollars. Thanks to everyone who participated!



### **Rainbow Pride flag flying high this weekend**

On Sunday, the Pride Parade will bring approximately 200,000 people to downtown Seattle to celebrate inclusion, tolerance and diversity in our area. This year, for the first time, WSF is joining Seattle City Hall, Starbucks headquarters, PEMCO, the Convention Center and other regional landmarks in flying the rainbow pride flag in support of the annual celebration. We’re taking the lead from Governor Inslee who raised the pride flag over the state capital last weekend in honor of the Olympia pride celebration. Look for the colorful banner atop our Seattle/Bainbridge and Seattle/Bremerton vessels serving folks making their way to the Seattle Pride festivities.



### **Kudos to WSF’s Director of Terminal Engineering**

Director of Terminal Engineering Nicole McIntosh was recently presented with the Governor’s Leadership in Management Award. This year, Governor Inslee recognized 20 exceptional managers in Washington state government who exemplify excellence in their performance and accomplishments. Nicole is well known at WSF as a go-to person, both for her work in the office as well as in the communities where we have terminal projects underway. I could not be more proud of her for this accomplishment. Nicole is pictured below, on Governor Inslee’s left, with her fellow award winners.



**Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!**

We are gearing up for one of our busiest times of the year, Fourth of July weekend. Please plan ahead for heavy traffic as people travel to attend fireworks displays and celebrate with friends and family. The heaviest traffic is expected westbound on Thursday and Friday, July 2-3, and eastbound on Sunday, July 5. For details on our holiday schedule and other ferry system information, visit us [online](#). We will not be sending out a Weekly Update next Friday due to the holiday. I wish you all a safe and happy Fourth of July!

Lynne Griffith  
Assistant Secretary WSDOT/Ferries Division

Hyperlinks within this email:

WSTC ferry fare proposal: <http://wstc.wa.gov/news/2015/WSTCPublicmeetingsonFerryFareIncreaseProposal.htm>

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

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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