



# Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



July 17, 2015

## This week:

- Plan ahead for service adjustments next week while two ferries undergo emergency repairs
- Dinner on the Mukilteo/Clinton route
- Vashon terminal construction begins soon – learn more at the Vashon Strawberry Festival
- Naturalists provide information on Anacortes/San Juan Islands sailings
- Presentation to the Seattle Yacht Club
- Partnership with Kitsap Regional Library continues

## Plan ahead for service adjustments next week while two ferries undergo emergency repairs

All 24 of our vessels will be busy, either providing service or undergoing maintenance, next week when two of our largest ferries are out for emergency repairs. The *Puyallup* will be out of service for three days, from July 20-22, while crews inspect an engine that broke down in June. Additionally, the *Elwha* will be out of service for approximately four months for extensive repairs to one of its drive motors. With the system already stretched thin, this emergency work means we will be utilizing every available vessel in the fleet. In order to maintain service across the entire system, we will adjust the sailing schedule and assign the back-up vessels *Evergreen State*, *Tillikum* and *Hiyu* to two routes. The Edmonds/Kingston route will expand from a two-boat schedule to a three-boat schedule. The Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth route will shift from a three-boat schedule to a two-boat schedule, with supplementary service provided by the 34-car *Hiyu*. The *Walla Walla* will temporarily fill in for the *Puyallup* on the Seattle/Bainbridge route. Sign-up for ferry [email alerts](#), check WSF's [website](#) and follow us on Twitter (@wsferries) to receive the latest schedule information and updates. In the photo below, Port Engineer Jim Schubert peers into one of the *Puyallup*'s enormous main engines being readied for inspection and repair.



## Dinner on the Mukilteo/Clinton route

One of the best parts of my job is getting to ride along with our crews. On Wednesday, Chief of Staff Elizabeth Kosa and I traveled with Captain Curt Larson and his crew on the *Tokitae* for several round trips on the Mukilteo/Clinton route. They treated us to a pizza dinner and I enjoyed getting to know employees that I haven't met yet. It was also fun to see one familiar face, Maribel Diaz Najera, who was one of my classmates when I took the Ordinary Seaman (OS) training course earlier this summer. She's been working regularly in the fleet as an OS and reports loving her job. In fact, she's already working on getting her Able-Bodied Seaman (AB) license so she can continue to move up in the fleet! I'm pictured below with Elizabeth Kosa and members of the crew (from left to right): Noah Easterson, Harald Domke, Joe Dandridge, Capt. Curt Larson, Maribel Diaz Najera, and Mike Ankney. Other crew members not pictured were Randy Lodell, Al Thomas, and Jeanene Domke.



### **Vashon terminal construction begins soon — learn more at the Vashon Strawberry Festival**

Later this month, crews will begin construction on the nearly 60-year-old Vashon ferry terminal. In the event of an earthquake, both the Vashon and Tahlequah terminals on Vashon Island are at risk. It's critical that the island's main terminal be upgraded immediately to bring it up to current seismic standards. Stop by WSF's booth at the [Vashon Strawberry Festival](#) on Saturday and Sunday to [learn more](#) about this project and how the work will affect ferry operations. Construction is expected to be complete by July 2016.

### **Naturalists provide information on Anacortes/San Juan Islands sailings**

Starting on Wednesday, our popular Ferry Naturalist Program resumes on select Anacortes/Friday Harbor sailings. This longstanding partnership between WSF, the Whale Museum in Friday Harbor and Orca Network educates visitors to San Juan Island about the Southern Resident killer whales and the threats they face. Trained volunteer naturalists provide passengers with information about orca whales and good stewardship practices. Look for these marine naturalists on the 1:50 p.m. sailing from Friday Harbor and 4:45 p.m. sailing from Anacortes every Wednesday for the rest of the summer.

### **Presentation to the Seattle Yacht Club**

On Thursday, I spoke to members of the Seattle Yacht Club at one of their monthly luncheons. I shared some fun facts about the ferry system (did you know that the total number of riders who traveled on Washington state ferries last year, 23.2 million, could fill CenturyLink Field more than 346 times?) and provided an update on our vehicle reservations program and new ferry construction.

### **Partnership with Kitsap Regional Library continues**

WSF has worked with [Kitsap Regional Library](#) for many years helping to inspire ferry riders to read and while away their ferry commute with a good book. The library runs the popular "[Ferry Tales](#)" book group on the Seattle/Bainbridge route each month and many of our Kitsap County terminals have hosted "Little Free Libraries" where customers can share and swap books. This week, we added a permanent symbol of this ongoing relationship with Kitsap Regional Library by providing space for a new poster display case at the Bainbridge terminal (pictured below) that will feature new titles available at the library. The posters will rotate throughout the year and allow customers with electronic devices to download a sample of a new book.



Lynne Griffith  
Assistant Secretary WSDOT/Ferries Division

Hyperlinks within this email:

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

WSF website: <http://wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/>

Vashon Strawberry Festival: <http://www.vashonchamber.com/pages/strawberry-festival>

Vashon Trestle Replacement Project: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr160/vashontrestle/>

Kitsap Regional Library: <http://www.krl.org/>

"Ferry Tales" book group: <http://www.krl.org/programs-and-events?trumbaEmbed=date%3D20150813#/?i=1>

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

Follow WSF on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wsferries>

*To unsubscribe, reply to this message with "unsubscribe" in the subject of the email.*