



Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



Sept. 4, 2015

This week:

- A salute to the women and men of Washington's marine highways
- Ferry ridership highest in a dozen years
- Edmonds Mayor's Advisory Task Force
- Bring a friend for free! Use WSF's Chinook Book coupon
- Employee compliment

A salute to the women and men of Washington's marine highways

As we head into Labor Day weekend, I'd like to reflect on the excellent service all our employees bring to the job every day. We've come a long way this year. Ridership is up, we've added a new vessel and have begun critical work repairing and upgrading our Mukilteo and Vashon ferry docks. None of this could happen without the dedicated service of the well over 1,500 individuals who labor through all kinds of weather, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to keep the largest, safest ferry system in the United States moving. You can read about a few of our many professional, highly trained mariners in our [recent blog](#). In the coming months, we'll showcase more of our employees doing great work throughout the system.



Ferry ridership highest in a dozen years

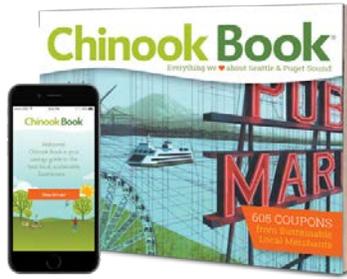
I am pleased to report that more people have sailed with us this summer than any other in a dozen years. This year, an additional 150,000 passengers, enough to fill Safeco Field nearly three times over, took a ferry between mid-June and late-August compared to summer 2014. With ridership soaring to new heights and the last busy summer weekend ahead of us, remember to check out the variety of online travel tools we have to help you plan ahead this holiday weekend. They're all outlined in our [Labor Day weekend news release](#).

Edmonds Mayor's Advisory Task Force

On Wednesday, I participated in the initial meeting of the City of Edmonds At-Grade Rail Crossings Alternatives Analysis Task Force. Mayor Dave Earling is seeking advice on the at-grade rail crossing near the Edmonds terminal. Also in attendance were representatives from BNSF, Sound Transit, Community Transit, members of the Edmonds City Council, WSDOT Northwest Region staff, city staff and others. Trains can block access to the Edmonds waterfront for emergency responders and delay our loading and unloading process. These are important discussions and I look forward to our continued participation.

Bring a friend for free! Use WSF's Chinook Book coupon

The 2016 Chinook Book is out! Check out the [print and mobile versions of Chinook Book](#) for 2-for-1 passenger walk-on and bicycle coupons valid on all routes.



Employee compliment

Terminal Supervisors Jennie Buswell and Steve Nemeth shared the following compliment for Point Defiance Ticket Seller Beth Gore. Nice work, Beth!

[Beth came] in on her day off to drop off a huge supply of tourist information ... for all sellers here at Point Defiance to distribute to our customers. A big thank you to Beth!

Lynne Griffith
Assistant Secretary WSDOT/Ferries Division

Hyperlinks within this email:

"We salute the women and men of Washington's marine highways" blog: <http://wsdotblog.blogspot.com/2015/09/we-salute-women-and-men-of-washingtons.html>

Labor Day weekend news release: http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/News/2015/09/3_FerryRidership.htm

Chinook Book: <http://chinookbook.com/whats-inside/seattle-puget-sound/>

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

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