



# Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



Dec. 18, 2015

## This week:

- Annual holiday cruise
- Winter schedule begins Dec. 27
- WSDOT executives tour Anacortes/San Juan Islands route
- Fair winds, Capt. Skolmen!
- Seattle Times "Rave" for Fauntleroy terminal employees
- Plan ahead for Seahawks games and holiday travel
- Customer compliment
- Happy holidays!

## Annual holiday cruise

Last Saturday, volunteers from WSF's Active Ferry Employees Charitable Trust (AFECT), hosted more than 600 guests from Fircrest Residential Habilitation Center aboard the *Tokitae* for an annual holiday cruise. Over the last 30 years, this event organized by ferry employees has grown to include live bands, carolers, and visits from Santa as the ferry makes its way around Elliott Bay. For some here at WSF, volunteering has become a family tradition marking the start of the holiday season. AFECT is the sponsor, but it wouldn't be possible without volunteers from a wide range of community partners including the Marines, U.S. Coast Guard, Boy Scouts, Seafair Pirates, magicians and local musicians. Behind the scenes, vessel crew members (from the engine room to the pilothouse) donate their time, a local company donates fuel, and some of our food vendors donate the meals served to guests. Around the holiday season, AFECT steps up in a big way to provide this unique opportunity. Year-round, the group runs a fund to help fellow ferry workers in need.



## Winter schedule begins Dec. 27

Don't forget to pick up your copy of the blue winter 2016 schedule or look for it [online](#). The new schedule starts on Dec. 27 and runs through March 19. As winter is our slowest season, several routes will see changes, such as:

- Fewer weekend sailings on the Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth route
- Three boats on the Anacortes/San Juan Islands route on weekends instead of four
- No Anacortes/Sidney, BC service

## WSDOT executives tour Anacortes/San Juan Islands route

Earlier this week, I toured the Anacortes terminal and rode the *Samish* to Friday Harbor and back with Transportation Secretary Lynn Peterson and a group of WSDOT executives. It was a great opportunity to treat our co-workers to a behind-the-scenes look at the ferry system. This is essential to maintaining coordination with WSDOT HQ and other divisions so we can learn from each other and provide seamless transportation services. Below, from left to right: Secretary Peterson greets Capt. Doug Sowdon on the *Samish*; WSDOT Chief Financial Officer Amy Arnis and Secretary Peterson are treated to an engine room tour by Chief Engineer Mike Fleetwood and engine staff; and crew members demonstrate a fire drill.



**Fair winds, Capt. Skolmen!**

On Wednesday night, Capt. Torger Skolmen (pictured below, left, in 2013 when he received his certificate for 35 years of service) made his final sailing as captain of the *Kittitas* on the Mukilteo/Clinton route. He's retiring after 37 years with WSF. Ivar's Mukilteo Landing recognized this important milestone with a shout out to Capt. Skolmen. We too thank him for his many years of service and send best wishes for his next chapter!



**Seattle Times "Rave" for Fauntleroy terminal employees**

I loved seeing this 'Rave' in the Seattle Times this week. Thanks to all the Fauntleroy terminal employees for providing such excellent customer service!

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**RANT & RAVE**

**RAVE** To the Washington State Ferry employee at the Fauntleroy ferry dock, for finding and returning my son's beloved Seahawks football, left behind on a recent trip to Vashon Island. You made a nine-year old's day, thanks!



**Plan ahead for Seahawks game and holiday travel**

Expect heavy traffic on the Seattle/Bainbridge Island and Seattle/Bremerton routes this Sunday, Dec. 20, as the Seattle Seahawks take on the Cleveland Browns at CenturyLink Field. The game starts at 1:05 p.m. Be prepared for long lines heading to Seattle in the morning, and westbound in the evening. Customers are encouraged to pre-purchase tickets if possible.

Plan ahead if your holiday travel takes you across the water. Heavy holiday ferry traffic is expected westbound on Wednesday, Dec. 23, and Thursday, Dec. 24, and eastbound Sunday, Dec. 27. If possible, walk on the ferry to avoid long vehicle lines.

**Customer compliment**

This is a wonderful compliment for Dave Guerrero, Ordinary Seaman, whose exemplary customer service makes a little girl's day:

*You have an employee on the Kingston/Edmonds run named Dave. When we see him he is usually helping with loading and unloading passengers. Every week, I go to Edmonds on Tuesday nights and back on Wednesday nights with my 3 year old granddaughter, Ellie [...]. Dave has developed quite [a] relationship with Ellie. She lights up like a Christmas tree every time she spots him. [...] He is caring and friendly and a*

*real asset to the ferry system. I know you probably have lots of good employees, but Dave is really special and helps make our weekly trips even more enjoyable [...].*

### **Happy holidays!**

I want to wish everyone the happiest of holiday seasons. This will be the final Weekly Update for 2015; our next one will be on Jan. 8. Safe travels and Happy New Year!



Elizabeth Kosa  
Chief of Staff, WSDOT/Ferries Division  
*Guest Author*

Hyperlinks within this email:

2016 Winter Schedule: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/pdf/2016Winter.pdf>

WSF Weekly Updates are available on our website at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly).



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