



### Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth public meetings

Next week, we will be hosting three public meetings to discuss the Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth route. I look forward to hearing each community's concerns and priorities in an effort to continue the process of improving conditions on the route by summer 2017. Please join us if you can!

#### **Southworth:** Monday, Oct. 24

6–7:30 p.m.

John Sedgwick Jr. High, 8995 SE Sedgewick Road  
Port Orchard, WA 98366

#### **Vashon:** Wednesday, Oct. 26

6–7:30 p.m.

McMurray Middle School, 9329 SW Cemetery Road  
Vashon, WA 98070

#### **Fauntleroy (West Seattle):** Thursday, Oct. 27

5–6:30 p.m.

Fauntleroy Schoolhouse, 9131 California Ave. SW  
Seattle, WA 98136

### Employee Profile: Wes Sweet

When a Washington State ferry needs maintenance, Senior Port Engineer Wes Sweet and his staff of port engineers are on the job. Wes is the primary engineer responsible for ensuring that all 22 Washington State ferries are in strict safety and operational compliance with the U.S. Coast Guard regulations, WSF policies, and other regulatory guidance.

Wes gained experience in the field by working his way up aboard deep sea vessels from oiler to chief engineer and from deckhand to mate. "Working at sea taught me to use

### October 21, 2016

#### Senator Murray staff tour

Members of the executive team hosted staff from Senator Patty Murray's office and the Department of Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development on Thursday for a tour of Colman Dock and the Seattle/Bainbridge Island route.



#### Reminder of upcoming Port Townsend/Coupeville route closure

In two weeks, we will close the Coupeville ferry terminal for [seismic retrofit work](#).

There will be no service on the Port

Townsend/Coupeville route on Saturday, Nov. 5 and Sunday, Nov. 6 while this work is completed. Please plan to use alternate routes during this time.

#### Customer Kudos

the resources that we have, to be organized and trained for emergencies, and to stay calm," he says. Wes was unruffled in July 2014 when the Tacoma lost propulsion on the Seattle/Bainbridge route. He jumped into action, troubleshooting and brainstorming solutions with his well-oiled team whose goal is to support the vessel crew and help them communicate the issues at hand.

Wes developed the value of teamwork and a love of the water from an early age growing up on the Tennessee River, northern Alabama lakes and Florida coastal waters. But it was time spent during a Summer Sea Term aboard the State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime's training ship the *Empire State VI* that propelled him toward a full-time hands-on career on the ocean. He remembers, "Even when I was shoreside, I could not shake the itch to return to the sea. Early on in college I knew I didn't want to be stuck behind a computer screen designing vessels as a Naval Architect/Marine Engineer."

In addition to studying Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering at SUNY Maritime and the University of New Orleans, Wes is a U.S. Coast Guard licensed captain, and holds several engineering licenses and maritime endorsements. He spent 12 years sailing on a variety of vessels, including cargo ships and multi-million dollar yachts before deciding to come ashore to raise a family. Today, Wes and his wife enjoy raising their daughter in Seattle where they live an active lifestyle including volleyball, skiing and swimming. Wes also participates in triathlons, and occasionally bikes the 12 miles to work.

*"As a Navy retiree, I always appreciate a "thank you for your service."*

*On Monday, Oct. 10th, myself and another Navy retiree were saluted while leaving the ferry area after arriving on the 9:40 ferry by car from Bainbridge.*

*We were saluted by one of your employees who was helping direct traffic out of the ferry area onto the road (and he apparently spotted the Navy decal).*

*This gesture was greatly appreciated. Our thanks to your thoughtful, respectful employee."*

*- Seattle/Bainbridge  
Customer*



### Rotary Club Tour

On Thursday, WSF Assistant Engineer and Seattle #4 Rotary Club member John Hrabar organized and led members of the Rotary Club on a tour of the *Hyak*. John toured guests through the engine room and the pilothouse, with the help of Captain Bob Corbin and Chief Engineer Dave Knutsen on a round trip sailing from Seattle to Bremerton. John has been a member of the Seattle #4 Rotary Club for one year and a WSF employee for six. Thank you for sharing our work with the community, John!





**Lynne Griffith**  
Assistant Secretary, WSDOT/Ferries Division



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Questions? Contact us at [WSFWeeklyUpdate@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:WSFWeeklyUpdate@wsdot.wa.gov)

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