



Washington State Ferries



Washington State
Department of Transportation

Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



Oct. 23, 2015

This week:

- Look what hopped into the Bainbridge Island terminal
- Public meetings in the San Juan Islands
- WSF's annual service awards
- Dispatch team and crew helm fewer missed trips
- Thank you for your patience this week

Look what hopped into the Bainbridge Island terminal

Last Wednesday, our Bainbridge Island terminal, in partnership with the Bainbridge Island Downtown Association (BIDA), welcomed "Bainbridge FerryHopper" to the WSF family. The sculpture is one of 36 larger than life fiberglass frog statues painted by local artists as part of "[Frogs on the Rock](#)," a community sponsored, island-wide art project. All three dozen whimsical faux frogs were on view around Bainbridge Island for more than a year before being auctioned off to benefit BIDA in Sept. 2014. The ferry frog, now on permanent display inside the terminal, is named after Kitsap Transit's special "Frog Hopper" shuttle that was used to transport visitors around town to see the frog sculptures prior to auction. Many thanks to BIDA for donating this marvelous piece of memorabilia.



Public meetings in the San Juan Islands

Our latest series of public meetings to hear how reservations are working in the San Juan Islands wrapped up this week. More than 175 people joined us on Orcas, Lopez, San Juan and Shaw islands to review information and provide input on ways to improve the reservations program as we head toward our busy spring and summer 2016 seasons. We received a lot of positive feedback and good suggestions, particularly centered around making the reservations website more user-friendly. If you were unable to attend in person, we still want to hear from you! Send your comments and questions to WSFReservations@wsdot.wa.gov. Additionally, all of the meeting materials are available [online](#).

WSF's annual service awards

On Wednesday, I had the honor of recognizing 15 employees for their decades of service and dedication to WSF. The award recipients ranged from captains to terminal employees to accounting and security personnel. All were commended for serving between 25 and 41 years.

Terminal managers have been making the rounds to terminals to present service awards to staff (pictured below, South Region Terminal Manager Shawn Vogt congratulates Amy Taylor at the Point Defiance terminal for 10 years of service). As the country's largest ferry system, our organization is home to nearly 2,000 of the most professional, highly trained crew and staff in the nation. I am very proud of these outstanding individuals and the many others who have dedicated their careers to WSF.



Dispatch team and crew helm fewer missed trips

This week, I had the pleasure of sharing a pizza lunch with our Dispatch team (pictured below) to celebrate their remarkable progress toward our goal of zero cancelled trips due to crewing. Every day these devoted dispatchers work tirelessly to fill open shifts across all 10 routes in the system. Although we did miss a few trips this fall, during summer 2015 we only missed two sailings due to not having enough crew to meet U.S. Coast Guard requirements, a significant improvement over summer 2014 when we logged 29 missed sailings.



Thank you for your patience this week

I would like to thank customers for your patience with recent vessel breakdowns and service disruptions on the Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth, Seattle/Bremerton and Seattle/Bainbridge routes. Last Saturday, mechanical issues aboard the *Kaleetan* reduced Seattle/Bremerton service down to a single ferry for several hours. The *Issaquah* was out for repairs on Sunday and again on Wednesday reducing Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth service to two boats. Lastly, customers saw delays Wednesday evening on the Seattle/Bainbridge route while the Coast Guard led a search-and-rescue operation because of a report of a possible man overboard on the *Puyallup*. The search lasted nearly two hours when it was thankfully determined to be a false alarm.

Lynne Griffith

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Hyperlinks within this email:

Frogs on the Rock: http://www.frogsontherock.org/bainbridge_island_frogs_on_the_rock_images_gallery.html

San Juan Islands Reservations public meetings: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/Planning/VehicleReservations.htm>

Weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at

www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly.



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