



Washington State Ferries



Washington State
Department of Transportation

Washington State Ferries Weekly Update



Oct. 16, 2015

This week:

- *Tacoma's* back and looking better than ever!
- Congratulations to *Puyallup* engine crew
- Join us for San Juan Islands Reservations Program public meetings
- 26th Annual Centennial Accord meeting
- Presentation to the Shipbuilders Council of America
- Great Washington ShakeOut

***Tacoma's* back and looking better than ever!**

Earlier this week, *Tacoma* returned to the Seattle/Bainbridge route after four months of maintenance work. In addition to a new paint job, we installed a new five-bladed propeller (pictured at left below), similar to the one installed on the *Puyallup* in late-2013. The new propeller's design will improve the vessel's propulsion efficiency by 12 percent compared to the old four-bladed propeller, saving about \$30,000 each month in fuel costs. Painting these huge Jumbo Mark II ferries, the largest in the fleet, takes 5,300 gallons of paint and costs approximately \$8 million. We think you'll agree that it's nice to have *Tacoma* back and that she looks great! Special thanks to Bainbridge Island Terminal Supervisor Joe Malono for capturing the beautiful photo of *Tacoma* below.



Congratulations to *Puyallup* engine crew

Last week, Matt von Ruden, Director of Vessels, presented the 2014 Reliability Award and 2014 Fleet Achievement Award to the *Puyallup* engine crew, recognizing their contributions to that vessel's truly incredible performance last year. In 2014, *Puyallup* made 8,655 trips, ran for 3,380 hours, travelled 54,779 nautical miles, and didn't miss any trips due to mechanical failure! In fact, Staff Chief Engineer Mark Nitchman reminded me that the *Puyallup* has operated for several years, until earlier this summer, without missed trips due to mechanical failure, which is a truly remarkable feat. Huge congratulations to Mark and the rest of the engine room crew, some of whom are pictured below (from left to right: Mark Nitchman, Assistant Engineer Jim Moyer, Oiler Q Lee, Oiler Nick Webster and Intern Will Lowe). I also want to acknowledge the support of our Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility, the port engineers, and other technical staff who help keep the boat running at its best.



Join us for San Juan Islands Reservations Program public meetings

Now that the first summer season of the [San Juan Islands Reservations Program](#) is over, we want to hear feedback on how it is working for our customers and what we can do to improve. I want to thank everyone who attended our first two [public meetings](#) this week on Lopez and Orcas islands. About 100 people came out to share their input and experiences. Please join us on Oct. 21 in Friday Harbor and Oct. 22 on Shaw Island for the final two fall outreach meetings.

26th Annual Centennial Accord meeting

On Wednesday, I attended the annual Centennial Accord Meeting with Gov. Inslee, WSDOT Deputy Secretary Roger Millar and other state leaders. The Centennial Accord was signed by Governor Booth Gardner and the Federally Recognized Tribes of the State of Washington in 1989. It helps ensure that WSF, and all state agencies, maintain effective government-to-government relations with the 12 tribes that have treaty rights or cultural resource interests in the areas around our routes and terminals. The meeting provided an opportunity for me to meet and speak with tribal leaders to make sure that the spirit of collaboration and cooperation is maintained.

Presentation to the Shipbuilders Council of America

Private shipyards in our region are critical partners in building and maintaining our fleet. Earlier today, I spoke at the Shipbuilders Council of America's fall general membership meeting. The SCA is the national trade association representing shipbuilders, repairers and shipyard suppliers. I shared lots of information about Washington's ferry system and outlined some of the big issues we're working on, including building new vessels and keeping up with maintenance on our aging fleet.

Great Washington ShakeOut

Yesterday, all employees at WSF's headquarters in Seattle joined other Washingtonians in practicing "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" as part of the Great Washington ShakeOut, the state's largest earthquake exercise. I did my part by getting under my table. It was a great reminder of how we can always do more to prepare for an emergency.



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Hyperlinks within this email:

Take a Ferry: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/TakeaFerry/>

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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