



Washington State Ferries

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## WSF: Star of the Pacific Northwest

With a reoccurring role in the hit medical drama “Grey’s Anatomy,” Washington State Ferries (WSF) is becoming one of the most recognizable celebrities in this region.

Nothing quite captures the essence of life in the Pacific Northwest like a shot of a state ferry pulling away from Colman dock just after sunset, the sky painted bright orange and dark purple with Mount Rainier looming like a ghost over the horizon.

Through the years WSF has worked with numerous film crews, both nationally and locally, on projects ranging from major motion pictures and television shows, to local commercial spots. Thanks to the popularity of “Grey’s,” WSF’s status as a pseudo-celebrity is at an all time high.

“Grey’s Anatomy,” in case you’ve been working in a Siberian salt mine the past two years, is a “prime-time” soap opera set at the fictional Seattle Grace Hospital, or SGH as the ultra-hip cast of “Grey’s” refers to it on screen. “Grey’s” has become wildly popular thanks to the on-again, off-again relationship of Meredith Grey, portrayed by Ellen Pompeo, and Dr. Derek “McDreamy” Shepherd, played by Patrick Dempsey.

Unlike other shows in recent memory, such as “Frasier,” which primarily used fictional views of the Seattle skyline, “Grey’s” relies on real images of the Pacific Northwest shot in real locations. In September 2005, the cast and crew of “Grey’s” caused quite a stir when they boarded the Seattle to Bainbridge Island route for a day of filming. Fans of “Grey’s” can thank co-executive producer Peter Horton, who is originally from Bainbridge Island, for bringing the cast and crew to Seattle and going the extra mile to capture the true beauty of this region onboard a state ferry, when many of his contemporaries would have been happy to stay put in the warm confines of a Hollywood studio.

For Horton and unit production-manager Jeff Rafner, coming to Seattle was an easy choice.

“Our story takes place in Seattle so it was a natural idea to use WSF when the script called for it,” Rafner said.



The cast of the ABC medical drama “Grey’s Anatomy.”

“The actual Seattle locations lend realism to our show even though we film most of the episodes in Los Angeles.”

This past January the crew of Grey’s returned to Seattle for more filming with WSF. They did a complete photographic survey of the area surrounding the ferry terminal at Colman Dock for use as visual-effects background plates. Back in Los Angeles actors were filmed in a parking lot in front of 200-foot x 30-foot green-screen walls. After filming, Los Angeles based digital effects company Stargate Digital, inserted the shots of the ferry terminal in place of the green screens.

The shots filmed at Colman Dock this past January will appear in a two-part episode airing Feb. 8 and Feb. 15, at 9 p.m. on ABC.

No matter how much planning goes into a film shoot onboard a state ferry or at the terminal, there are always unexpected complications that occur. Either the weather doesn’t cooperate or a shot doesn’t work out or one of the show’s stars breaks a nail and refuses to perform – almost anything can happen.

“While in Seattle in January we encountered all types of weather,” Rafner said. “In one day we had snow, rain, wind and clouds. We actually finished the day with a beautiful sunset, which was a nice goodbye for this trip north.”

Just because filming doesn’t go as planned, it doesn’t mean that the ship’s crew can stop what they’re doing. Just like in Hollywood, when it comes to keeping the ship

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## Lopez Island Landing Aid Replacement



Placing the 175 ton diaphragm on top of the Lopez inner dolphin.

Anytime a construction project takes place at a state ferry terminal it impacts passengers, employees and marine life. Because in-water construction is limited to July – February, weather can also play a role in these projects. None of our terminals has felt the burden of construction and weather more than the Lopez Island Ferry Terminal has recently.

This past fall Washington State Ferries (WSF) Terminal Engineering group embarked on a project to replace the Lopez Island Ferry Terminal floating landing aids. Landing aids, commonly referred to in the marine industry as “dolphins,” provide a structure that the vessels may brush and lean against in order to stabilize during loading, unloading, departures and arrivals. The construction consists of the replacement of the inner floating landing dolphin with a structure fixed to the ocean floor, and the addition of a new concrete floating dolphin that will be attached to the ocean floor using chains and anchors.

The existing outer dolphin at the Lopez Island Ferry Terminal was salvaged from the original SR-520 floating bridge, modified and placed into service in 1982. The existing inner dolphin was constructed using creosote treated timbers and was showing signs of rot. WSF made the determination in 2001 that these structures had reached the end of their useful life and required replacement.

Work activities for construction of the inner fixed dolphin began on Oct. 7, 2006 with the removal of the existing floating structure. Steel piles were driven into the sea floor and anchored into rock using a cement grout and tensioned steel cables. The steel structure almost resembles a guitar or violin in the way it’s constructed. A concrete slab, or “diaphragm,” is placed on top of the steel piles to transfer the energy from vessel impacts to the sea floor.

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## Business Spotlight: Rocket Fuel Espresso

Washington State Ferries (WSF) may have made the switch to ultra low-sulfur diesel-fuel in 2006 but our passengers now have another option in 2007 – rocket fuel – thanks to the addition of a new vendor at the Southworth Terminal.

Rocket Fuel Espresso and Goodies opened for business at the Southworth Terminal this past December and is helping early morning passengers and those needing a lift throughout the day to stay fueled up.

Southworth resident Roxanne Kasperson owns and operates the espresso stand which is centrally located between the tollbooth and the parking lot at the bottom of the U-Park area.

"I am really excited to work directly with the community that I live in," Kasperson said.

Kasperson always thought it would be fun to run an espresso bar at the Southworth Terminal. When the previous vendor put the business up for sale, she jumped at the opportunity to take it over. After six-months without espresso, Southworth commuters fiending for their

daily fix of espresso were excited to find Rocket Fuel open for business.

"They've (customers) all been really cute. They've been telling me 'we're so glad you're here and I'm so glad I found you,'" she said. "I already have a lot of people that are becoming regulars."

Rocket Fuel features Dillano's Coffee which is a high-quality roaster from Sumner. In addition to espresso, Rocket Fuel offers chai tea, smoothies and an assortment of bagels, pastries and doughnuts. Kasperson and her crew of workers have also brainstormed some ideas that she hopes will stimulate business and make it easier for commuters to get their coffee fix.

They recently purchased a cell phone to take advanced orders and provide car-side delivery for those waiting to board the boat. They also plan on setting up a coffee cart at the end of the dock featuring drip coffee and pastries for commuters on the go.

So if your tank is running low and you need to fuel up, stop by Rocket Fuel Espresso and Goodies if you are traveling through Southworth.



Rocket Fuel Espresso and Goodies opened at Southworth Terminal in December.

### Rocket Fuel's hours of operations are:

4:05 a.m. – 3 p.m., Mon. – Thurs.; 4:05 a.m. – 7:15 p.m., Fri.; 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., Sat. – Sun.

The cell phone number for advanced ordering and car-side delivery is (360) 689-6690.

## Testing of Regional "Smart Card" is Complete

Paying to use public transportation in Western Washington is getting smarter all the time now that the customer BETA testing phase on the regional transportation "smart card" is complete.

The ORCA (One Regional Card for All) smart card is a new electronic fare collection system (EFS), not to be confused with WSF's Wave2Go, which will allow riders to seamlessly travel throughout the region using the different transportation systems. Testing of the smart card system lasted six weeks from December 4th – January 31st. Seven regional transportation agencies including WSF participated in the test. The other agencies involved were: Community Transit, Everett Transit, Kitsap Transit, King County Metro Transit, Pierce Transit and Sound Transit.

"We expect the ORCA smart card system to allow easier transition from bus to ferry to bus with one card," WSF project manager Brian Churchwell said.

The smart card is a plastic card containing an embedded microchip processor that processes fare transactions through card-reader equipment installed at participating ferry terminals, buses and train stations.

Smart-card users can purchase passes on their card or store funds in an electronic "e-purse" for traveling across the system. The card-reader equipment automatically validates the pass or deducts fares from the e-purse, thus speeding up the fare payment process.

Although ORCA is a separate entity from Wave2Go, plans are in place for the integration of the two fare collection systems when ORCA is officially rolled out.

ORCA recruited more than 2,000 volunteer testers on targeted routes to pinpoint potential problems. WSF conducted its testing on the Seattle/Bremerton Route. There were 300 cards issued to testers on this route. Walk-on testing was conducted on the eastbound route from Seattle to Bremerton, while drive-on testing was conducted on westbound passengers traveling from Bremerton to Seattle.

WSF ticket taker, Eian Kaine, oversaw testing of walk-on passengers at Colman Dock.

"The ORCA card is a very clever idea," he said. "I am very optimistic about this product and I can't wait to see it up and running."

Like any new product, there are some bugs that need to be worked out, which is why testing was done so early. The most common complaints among testers were that it took too long to read cards and that card readers were not functioning correctly at times.

Volunteers who tested the card were encouraged by the results despite the glitches.

"I think the volunteers do understand where we are trying to go with the ORCA card," Kaine said. "They were very optimistic and very positive about it."

George Padilla, an on-call WSF employee, oversaw drive-on testing at the Bremerton Terminal. He managed a group of 30 volunteers who were enthusiastic about ORCA testing.

"The public is looking forward to the change," Padilla said. "The testers who came through were very faithful to the project. On most days, those who didn't make it through my line would walk over and scan their cards. The testers were very committed to the project."

The next phase is to analyze the input from the testers. Feed-back forms from the

testers, along with information provided by Kaine and Padilla, will allow ORCA managers to make necessary changes when the program is rolled out. An official roll-out date has not yet been determined.

"The testers input has really helped us to identify ways to make the process more efficient," Churchwell said.

Smart-card systems are currently in place in the U.S. and around the world. Several cooperating smart-card systems include: Washington D.C. (SmartTrip); San Francisco Bay Area (TransLink); Ventura County CA (Go Ventura); London (Oyster); and Hong Kong (Octopus).

Because the Puget Sound's system includes so many different transportation agencies it will be one of the most complex systems when it goes operational.

The smart card project grew out of regional coordination on fare policies that local transit agencies have been participating in for more than a decade. In 1999, the agencies worked together to create Puget Pass, which can be used on five transit systems and commuter rail. The ORCA card is the next step forward in regional fare coordination.

## New Food Vendor on Triangle Route

Passengers on the Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth route will soon have food service again.

CDX Corp. of Mukilteo, the food vendor on the Mukilteo/Clinton and Port Townsend/Keystone routes, will take over food service on the "triangle route" – Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth – in early February. CDX has provided food on the Mukilteo/Clinton route since mid-2005 and just recently started food service on the Port Townsend/Keystone route.

"We have a very good relationship with WSF and we are very comfortable working

with them," said CDX program manager Frances Young.

"CDX is examining all of its hours and operating costs to ensure running an efficient program," Young said. CDX plans to operate the Vashon Island Ferry Boat Café from 5:20 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., Sunday – Saturday.

Passengers on the triangle route can expect many of their favorite snacks from other WSF routes and a few surprises as well. Among the products offered by CDX

are coffee, popcorn, warm soup, sandwiches, and beer and wine. They will feature local companies' offerings such as Redhook ESB, Tully's coffee and Ivar's soups. Young thinks Ivar's new Dungeness crab chowder will be popular with passengers.

"I tasted it (Dungeness crab chowder) and it's really good," she said.

Currently CDX offers service on the Port Townsend Keystone route from 7 a.m. – 1:15 p.m., Monday – Thursday; and from 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m., Friday – Sunday.



# Wave2Go Rolled Out at Mukilteo and Clinton Terminals

Purchasing tickets just got easier for customers on the Mukilteo/Clinton route with the successful launch of the new electronic fare collection system (EFS), Wave2Go. Wave2Go gives ferry customers more options for purchasing tickets, which will make ferry travel easier for all ferry users.

After 10 plus years under the previous point of sale system, customers are being asked to embrace an entirely different system than the one they are accustomed to. A group of customer information agents and managers from Washington State Ferries (WSF) spent the week leading up to the Jan. 23rd roll out at the terminals in Mukilteo and Clinton, answering questions and addressing concerns as customers adjusted to the new system.

"By the second day of talking to Mukilteo commuters, they were ready for more information," WSF information agent, Carolynne Urbanchock said. "They had visited our web site the night before and were ready to purchase the ReValue products."

At the end of the week-long outreach customers' trepidation about the new system started to give way to excitement about the new options and conveniences Wave2Go offers.

"Ferry customers can now purchase tickets online and print them at home, as well as at kiosks located in the terminals or from our tollbooths," Traci Brewer-Rogstad, Director of Marine Operations, said.

Gone on these routes are the old ticket books, which have been replaced with bar-coded, scanable multi-ride cards. The new Wave2Go cards carry the same amount of rides, provide the same discount and have the same 90-day expiration date as the old frequent-users book.

## Wave2Go is all about options.

Monthly-passenger passes are available online, at local retailers and at the kiosks in the terminals. Passengers purchasing the passes online have

the option of either printing the pass at home or ordering the ReValue Pass, a hard-coated credit card-like stock from the ferry system.

Monthly passes can also be replenished automatically each month through the ReValue system. Interested customers can sign up and create an account for the ReValue products online. Monthly ferry passes are still not available at the tollbooths.



Wave 2 Go cards can be purchased online, at kiosks, terminals and tollbooths.

"Frequent users can also order our new ReValue card online, which will automatically replenish their monthly pass or frequent-user rides when needed. ReValue customers will never run out of tickets," Brewer-Rogstad said.

With Wave2Go single full fare tickets are available for pre-purchase up to seven days in advance, a first for WSF. All tickets, including the single fares and multi-ride tickets for passengers and vehicles under 20-feet are available on the Internet, at kiosks, at the terminals and at the tollbooths. All tickets purchased via the Internet can be printed at home on a personal printer and scanned at the tollbooth or at a turnstile.

"With the capability of advance purchase, we expect that customers will spend less time at the tollbooth purchasing fares," adds Ms. Brewer-Rogstad.

The next Wave2Go roll out is scheduled for Feb. 20 on the Edmonds/Kingston route.

"Grey's" continued from page 1.

running and providing great customer service, "the show must go on," even in the face of unexpected changes, which happen often, both in Hollywood and onboard state ferries.

And in this era of heightened security everyone, including Hollywood film crews, must comply with U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations.

During the filming session in January the producers of "Grey's" wanted a shot looking out from the vehicle deck towards the Seattle skyline. In order to get the shot they wanted, the producers needed an empty car deck, which required them to stay onboard during the security sweep. The captain of the ship had to grant special permission for the crew to stay onboard so they could finish their work.

"Grey's Anatomy" may be the most high-profile production working with state ferries but they're not the only one. In January, a local affiliate of the production company Süperfad came onboard the Seattle to Bainbridge route to film a commercial for NWJobs.com, a service of The Seattle Times Company representing the Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

A crew of six production workers and four actors boarded the 9:35 a.m. sailing on the M/V Puyallup to film scenes for a commercial depicting a normal morning commute for local residents. The actors, with crumpled newspapers and Tully's coffees in hand, were filmed departing the boat as it pulled into Colman Dock.

"We went out of our way to create a believable commuters path that would resonate with commuters in the area," producer John Hilton said. "The ferries are such an integral part of Northwest commuting that we thought ferries must be included in the commercial."

The crew from Süperfad was escorted by WSF promotions and events coordinator, Tara Decrow, who made an announcement about the film shoot to a mounting group of passengers. The passengers seemed genuinely interested in the happenings and were cooperative during the process.

"WSF just bent over backwards to make sure that we were taken care of," Hilton said.

"I was really pleased with how accommodating the personnel were. I felt like they went out of their way to make sure we were able to capture the ferry experience."

Hilton expects Süperfad's commercial for NWJobs.com to appear locally starting in March.

As more and more film crews come to Washington in search of authentic on-location shots, it is likely that they will seek out WSF for permission to film onboard state ferries.

**Note:** The upcoming episode of "Grey's Anatomy" depicts an "incident" at Colman Dock in which numerous passengers are injured. WSF wants to reassure our customers that no passengers were injured during filming at Colman Dock. The "incident" depicted at Colman Dock is purely fictional. The scenes in the episodes were filmed in Los Angeles. The Colman Dock footage, which was shot in January, was digitally inserted into the scenes by Stargate Digital of Los Angeles.

When the producers of "Grey's" approached WSF about the idea, management was hesitant because while we know that our ferries are safe, a show depicting them as otherwise would be unsettling, to say the least, to our passengers and employees.

"Knowing the risk involved, WSF moved forward very carefully with the filming of the episode," says WSF Executive Director, Mike Anderson. "It was our concern that whatever the 'incident' was, it could not imply negligence on the part of WSF or any of its crew."

WSF made these concerns very clear to the writer and director of the show and was granted significant input in the final script. Ultimately, the "incident" they chose is something that would never happen because there are systems and equipment in place to prevent such an event.

"WSF has an excellent safety record and our Safety Management System is one that other ferry operators have tried to emulate. We are one of the safest transportation systems in the nation and would never do anything to jeopardize our reputation," Anderson added.

Lopez Island continued from page 1.

Installation of the completed structure will eliminate the need to adjust cables and anchors. The replacement is expected to reduce annual maintenance costs and provide a more reliable landing aid during the storm season.

Construction of the new floating dolphin is taking place in the Duwamish waterway, located in Seattle. The concrete pontoon is constructed on top of a floating barge which will be transferred to an Anacortes dry dock and submerged to launch the new floating dolphin. The structure is expected to be placed into service in late February or early March.

During construction WSF staff are required to be ever vigilant to ensure impacts to the sensitive marine environment are minimized. The heaviest of construction requires trained personnel to watch for Orca and Stellar Sea Lions. After a sighting within one mile of construction, in-water construction activities are halted until the all clear sign has been given. Additionally, in-water construction is limited to July 15 - Feb. 15, to prevent impacts to fish migration. This restriction requires that construction work take place during the winter months when winds and storms are stronger and more frequent.

Operation of Lopez Island - a single slip facility - during construction has been extremely difficult. While most of the Puget Sound region has struggled through winter



Floating dolphin construction at the Duwamish waterway, Seattle.

wind and snow storms, construction on this project has moved forward to meet permit conditions and limit impacts to departures and arrivals. This season's unusually strong weather and this construction project have required WSF Captains to make the difficult decision to abandon landings and ensure that the safety of the traveling public is never compromised. To date a total of 31 landings on Lopez Island were canceled due to the combination of severe weather and construction impacts during the past three months.

The skill in seamanship of the boat crews that service Lopez Island is to be commended as landings during this construction project have become more reliable as the storm season progressed.

The patience of the San Juan Islands commuters has been second to none. There is a general feeling throughout the WSF organization that the traveling public has embarked on this journey as a member of the WSF team. Complex construction projects such as this could never be completed without the understanding of the public as well as the skill and dedication of WSF boat crews.



Ellie Ziegler, Washington State Ferries Terminal Engineering Environmental Group - Preparing for Orca and Stellar Sea Lion watch.

# No Winter Blues in the Puget Sound

The Puget Sound has long been known as a great destination for families and couples. Smart travelers know that the winter season is the best time to get out and enjoy great theatre, wonderfully unique festivals and seasonal discounts on lodging and activities.

Last minute shoppers for Valentine's Day! The Red Wine and Chocolate festival is just the ticket to surprise your Valentine Sweetheart with a weekend of fun. Take a tour of 10 local wineries that make up the North Sound Winery Association as they display their fine local wine paired with fantastic chocolate treats. Each winery offers its own unique flare combined with the added flavor of local artists, musicians and food. This event runs on consecutive weekends to accommodate everyone, Feb. 10-11 and Feb. 17-19. Tickets are \$20 per person and include a commemorative glass and complimentary tastings. For tickets and more

information on this festival please visit, [www.NorthSoundWineries.org](http://www.NorthSoundWineries.org). Also for lodging and festival package information on the North Olympic Peninsula please visit, [www.OlympicCellars.com](http://www.OlympicCellars.com).

Romantic Getaways is a term that is thrown around in every advertisement seen in January and February, talking about places like Hawaii, Florida, Arizona and California. When you add in airfare, packing time, vacation hours, lodging, dining, hassles with airline security, etc., this can be a very stressful and time-consuming event. Maximize your weekends and vacation time by hopping onboard a Washington State Ferry to your Romantic Getaway. In less than an hour's drive, you can be on a romantic cruise across the Puget Sound onboard a Washington State Ferry. Set out for a local romantic destination overlooking mountains, lakes, open waterways and majestic scenery.

While major search engines help narrow down your destination searches out of the area, the best way to find the local flavor and the most unique destinations is through the local lodging association and visitor bureau websites. The following is a list of great local websites to find out about fun Puget Sound Activities and Seasonal Discounts.

- [www.VisitKitsap.com](http://www.VisitKitsap.com)
- [www.VisitSanJuans.com](http://www.VisitSanJuans.com)
- [www.WhidbeyCamanoIslands.com](http://www.WhidbeyCamanoIslands.com)
- [www.OlympicPeninsula.org](http://www.OlympicPeninsula.org)
- [www.WhidbeyIslandBandB.com](http://www.WhidbeyIslandBandB.com)
- [www.BainbridgeLodging.com](http://www.BainbridgeLodging.com)
- [www.OPBBA.com](http://www.OPBBA.com)
- [www.WBBG.com](http://www.WBBG.com)

Don't forget to visit the onboard Washington State Ferry information displays to find more information on unique events, local maps and fun Puget Sound destinations.



## Calendar of Events

Feb. 2 – March 3, Fridays & Saturdays  
**Jewel Box Theatre presents "Wit", Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize-winner drama (Poulsbo, Kitsap Peninsula)**  
[www.VisitKitsap.com](http://www.VisitKitsap.com)

Feb. 10 – 11 and Feb. 17 – 19  
**Red Wine & Chocolates (North Puget Sound Area)**  
[www.NorthSoundWineries.org](http://www.NorthSoundWineries.org)

Feb. 11  
**Chinese New Year Celebration and Street Parade (Bainbridge Island)**  
[www.BIChineseConnection.com](http://www.BIChineseConnection.com)

Feb. 22 – 24  
**Bainbridge Performing Arts present "The Vagina Monologues" in association with the V-Day Worldwide Campaign highlighting "Women in Conflict Zones" (Bainbridge Island)**  
[www.VisitKitsap.com](http://www.VisitKitsap.com)

Feb. 24 – 25  
**23rd Annual Langley Mystery Weekend "Death by Chocolate" (Langley, Whidbey Island)**  
<http://LangleyChamb.whidbey.com>

March 3  
**Grand Derangement at the Orcas Center (Orcas Island)**  
[www.VisitSanJuans.com](http://www.VisitSanJuans.com)

March 3 – 4  
**Penn Cove Mussel Festival (Coupeville, Whidbey Island)**  
[www.CentralWhidbeyChamber.com](http://www.CentralWhidbeyChamber.com)

## WSF Through the Years



The ferry Bainbridge at the Clinton dock during a cold winter day in early February, 1950. This photo, shot by Larry Dion, was originally published in the Seattle Times in February 1950.

Pictured here is the ferry Bainbridge tied up at the Clinton Dock on Columbia Beach, during the winter of 1949-'50. At the time of this picture, Washington State had not yet taken over the ferry system. The ferry Bainbridge was part of the Puget Sound Navigation Company's Black Ball Line. In 1951, Washington State purchased most of the Puget Sound Navigation Company's fleet and began operation of Washington State Ferries (WSF). The Washington Toll Bridge Authority purchased the Black Ball Line for \$5 million and established WSF, which began service on June 1, 1951.

If you think this winter has been cold, check out the ice formations in the foreground and just to the left of the ferry in the picture. Large chunks of ice from the Snohomish River broke free littering the salt water between Whidbey Island and Mukilteo, causing cancellation of two trips of the ferry Chetzemoka, forcing the ferry Bainbridge into emergency service on the Mukilteo/Clinton route.

"Through the Years" chronicles the history of WSF using historical photos and personal accounts. "Through the Years" highlights the changes WSF has undergone in more than 50 years of service on the Puget Sound.



**IN NORTH SOUND WINE COUNTRY**  
**FEBRUARY 10-11 & 17-18-19**  
**10 am - 5 pm**

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[www.northsoundwineries.org](http://www.northsoundwineries.org)



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