

Safe Travels Aboard Washington State Ferries

Through the years Washington State Ferries (WSF) has built a reputation as one of the safest ferry systems in the world. This reputation has been established by the dedication, commitment and professionalism of our employees.

The ferry system serves diverse users comprised of Washington commuters and visitors.

Providing service for and responding to the needs of the more than 24-million annual passengers traveling to 20 different ports of call demands that WSF employees uphold the highest standards of safety and service.

Recognizing that our personnel are the key to safety, WSF has implemented a comprehensive training program addressing safety, security and technical/professional requirements for our mariners.

Each year, WSF vessel employees participate in more than 10,000 drills as a part of their training regimen. Some of these exercises and drills include firefighting, rescue boat or man overboard, steering or propulsion failure, abandon ship and bridge teamwork.

“Our vessel training and drill program maintains our readiness and response,” says deck training coordinator Captain Brian Twietmeyer. “It keeps our emergency preparedness skills sharp.”

An example of the unique training provided to WSF employees is firefighting drills. Every five years, WSF vessel-deck employees are required to take a four-day basic and/or advanced firefighting course. Once they return to their vessels, employees participate in routine firefighting drills to reinforce lessons learned during training.

Crewmembers also routinely train and drill on the use of onboard rescue boats. Each year, WSF employees perform numerous rescues of boaters, kayakers and divers in distress. Puget Sound is beautiful, but its frigid waters can be deadly. An individual stranded in the water is at immediate risk of hypothermia. The ability of WSF crews



WSF able-bodied seamen Leroy Augustine, Patrick Eakes and Jon Burgh perform fire fighting drills aboard the M/V Spokane on July 24. Deck and engine room crews perform more than 10,000 training drills every year.

to spot someone in the water and respond quickly and effectively can be the difference between life and death.

“We have a wonderful success rate in terms of rescuing boaters. It speaks volumes for the quality of the training and drills conducted on board our vessels,” Twietmeyer said.

Vessel navigation is also a top priority of the training program. WSF routinely trains officers on the operation of radars, GPS, and other electronic navigational equipment. To optimize navigational safety, WSF will launch bridge-team training this year, which is designed to enhance bridge-team communication, task coordination

and situational awareness.

WSF is subject to extensive domestic and international standards of training for seafarers. The robust training program at WSF meets or exceeds these standards, in many cases complying with the more stringent international Standards for Training, Certification and Watchkeeping of Seafarers.

WSF is committed to the safety and security of our passengers; it's why we train our crews, perform thousands of drills, and conduct exercises each year and why we are constantly focused on our mission to keep our passengers safe. [↴](#)

Passengers Attempt 24-hour Ferry-thon

Retired Boeing electrical engineer Ed Wood and his wife Nancy Sleight decided to take a whirlwind tour of the Washington State Ferries (WSF) system this past July. Their plan was to see if they could ride all domestic WSF routes, with the exception of the Vashon passenger-only route, in a 24-hour period. Wood, who still works for Boeing as a contractor, has been commuting from Poulsbo on the ferries since 1985. He completed a similar trip nearly two decades ago, and after studying the latest summer sailing schedule, decided it was possible to visit all of the domestic terminals in one day.

What follows is a diary of Ed and Nancy's whirlwind ferry tour. Read on to find out if they were able to accomplish their mission.

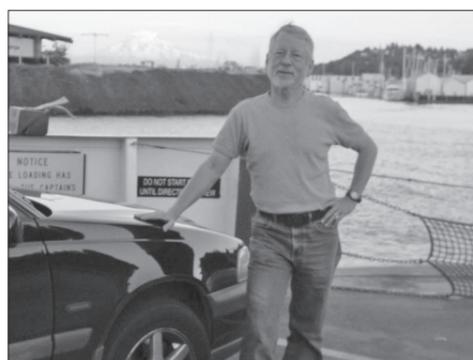
Note: Nancy's comments are *italicized*, Ed's are not.

July 6, 2007

5:55 p.m. Left home in Poulsbo, Wa.

6:53 p.m. We arrive at Southworth Terminal – waiting for 7:10 p.m. ferry.

Ed walked down the dock to take a picture of the incoming ferry. People in the other cars must think we're tourists – little do they know!



Retired Boeing engineer Ed Wood aboard the M/V Rhododendron during his 24-hour ferry-thon.

7:15 p.m. M/V Issaquah arriving at Southworth.

7:25 p.m. We have fun driving onto the ferry and around to face backwards for off loading onto Vashon Island.

7:28 p.m. Ferry departs for Vashon.

7:40 p.m. We arrive on Vashon and begin drive to Tahlequah.

7:58 p.m. Vashon Island has grown up since I was last here 17 years ago. Quartermaster Harbor is beautiful in the quiet sunlight.

8:05 p.m. Arrive at Tahlequah Dock.

8:47 p.m. Arrive at Pt. Defiance – drive through tunnel under the old Asarco smelter – we're following a BMW convertible that has two dogs as passengers and they're not belted in. Mt. Rainier is right in front of us – beauty and the beasts! We couldn't have picked a more beautiful evening – it's **9:06 p.m.**, still light out and 71 degrees.

9:45 p.m. Drove onto dock at Fauntleroy to wait for the 10:15 p.m. ferry to Southworth.

10:35 p.m. Southworth ferry leaves Fauntleroy late – it is doubtful we can catch the 11:40 p.m. Bremerton ferry in time.

11:13 p.m. Head off the M/V Issaquah for Bremerton – temperature is 63 degrees.

The drive from Southworth was an anxious one. Could we make it in less than 30 minutes? We discussed other options while driving and decided we would 'abort trip' if we didn't make it to Bremerton in time.

11:39 p.m. We pull into the Bremerton Ferry Terminal and the approximately 14 waiting cars immediately begin to load. The boat pulls away at 11:42 p.m. We made it!

11:42 p.m. We are on the M/V Walla Walla headed for Seattle, having made it by the skin of our teeth.

Continued on page 2.

Four New Vessels Coming to Washington State Ferries

Washington State Ferries (WSF) is one step closer to adding new vessels to the fleet thanks to a proposed cooperative-effort by area shipbuilders.

On Tuesday, July 3, Gov. Christine Gregoire announced acceptance of a Notice of a Joint Single-Proposal that would allow three WA shipyards – Todd Pacific Shipyards, J.M. Martinac Shipbuilding Corporation and Nichols Brothers Boat Builders, Inc. – to build four new ferries.

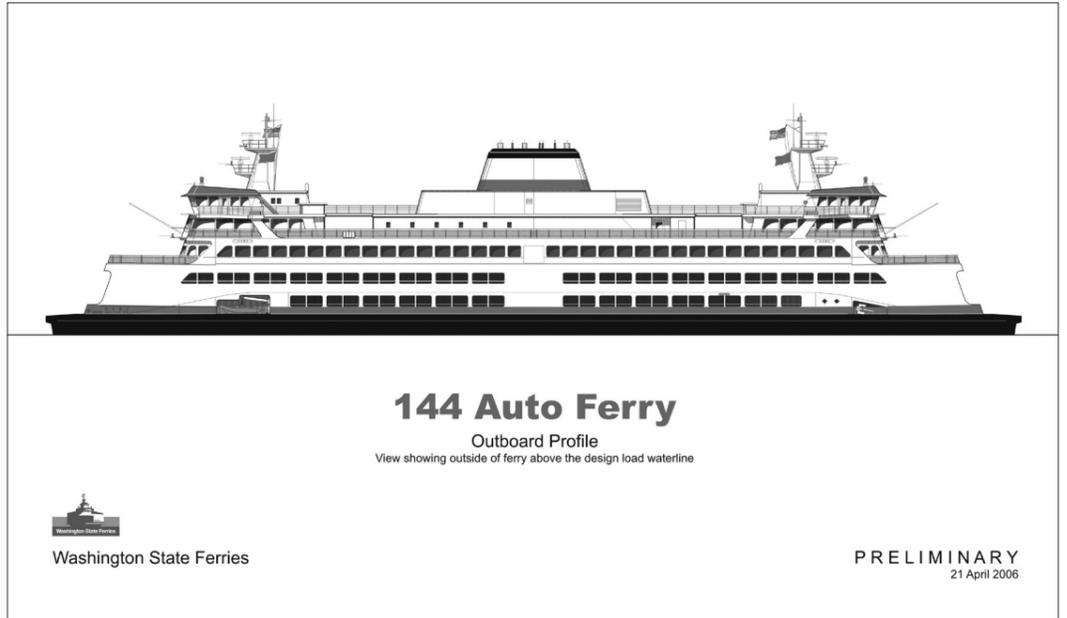
“I am committed to making sure that Washingtonians have reliable ferries available for commuting and recreation and am pleased that these competing shipyards came together on a proposal that will benefit our citizens,” said Gov. Gregoire. “The construction of four new ferries will move us toward a goal to renew the state’s fleet.”

This joint proposal paves the way for the would-be-competitors to work together. A 13-page proposal submitted by the boat builders to WSF lays out how they would divide work on the 144-vehicle ferries. Under the proposal, Todd Pacific Shipyard would serve as the prime contractor on the project. J.M. Martinac Shipbuilding of Tacoma and Nichols Brothers Boat Builders of Whidbey Island would be subcontractors.

Funding for the new vessel program was first received in 2003. In 2007, \$347.6 million was approved for building the new vessels. The first of the four new vessels is tentatively scheduled for completion in spring 2010, with the last vessel arriving in late 2012.

The new vessels will be used system-wide primarily on the Mukilteo/Clinton, Anacortes/San Juan Islands and Seattle/Bremerton routes. Final determinations regarding routes will be made upon completion of the vessels.

“Although an encouraging beginning, there is still more to do before the first ferry comes into service,” said Mike Anderson, Executive Director of WSF.



Tentative plans for the new 144-passenger auto ferries. These plans are subject to change.

“Now WSDOT/WSF and the prime contractor, Todd Pacific Shipyards, will begin to negotiate the terms and conditions of the contract. I am hopeful that this is the first of many positive announcements with respect to this process and we applaud Gov. Gregoire for her leadership on this effort.”

“24-hour Ferry-thon” continued from page 1.

July 7, 2007 (07/07/07...Our Luck Day!)

12:35 a.m. Land in Seattle, drive around block and back onto the Colman Dock to wait for 1:35 a.m. ferry to Bainbridge Island.

1:42 a.m. M/V Tacoma departs with us on board after dock hand wakes us up. *Rude awakening.*

2:15 a.m. Boat docks and we drive off, heading for our house in Poulsbo to pick up a few items and maybe sleep for a couple of hours. We’ve been on a total of five ferries so far.

4:40 a.m. *It’s 4:40 a.m. and we’re in line for the Kingston ferry. We took a detour on our way here from B.I. and went to our house and slept in our very own bed for about an hour and a half. The rule was that we would sleep in our clothes between the sheet and blanket – no bathing, brushing of teeth etc. That way we could just roll out of bed and go. After a short nap, we head to Kingston. The little coffee shop in Kingston isn’t open this early so we will have to make do with tea on the ferry. The sky is lightening and it looks a little foggy over the water. We’re looking forward to the sunrise.*

5:28 a.m. *We’re back on the mainland. I’m hoping we’ll find a McDonald’s. Found a McDonald’s and they’re open – YUM!*



Nancy Sleight boards the M/V Evergreen State for the San Juan Islands inter-island sailing.

However, the Starbucks isn’t open this early. Ed will have to wait for his cappuccino. I, on the other hand, have my sausage McMuffin in hand. It’s 55 degrees and the anticipated sunrise is masked by fog.

6:00 a.m. Arrive at the Mukilteo dock just in time to see the 6 a.m. ferry leave. We are planning on taking the 6:30 a.m. ferry to Clinton. It’s still foggy, but promise of sunshine today.

6:20 a.m. We drive onto the M/V Kitsap for the ride to Clinton on Whidbey Island. Fog still covers most of the Sound but we can see patches of sunlit areas across the water on Whidbey Island.

6:48 a.m. *Arrive in Clinton. Can we make it to Anacortes in time for the 7:45 a.m. ferry? Probably shouldn’t have stopped for that McMuffin.*

8:45 a.m. Board M/V Kaleetan for Friday Harbor.

8:54 a.m. M/V Kaleetan leaves dock at Anacortes and heads out into the fog.

9:35 a.m. *We’re making our way through the San Juan Islands, destination Friday Harbor. It looks like the fog will lift by the time we get there, it will be a pretty return trip. Wait! I see blue sky ahead! I busy myself enjoying the scenery and doing a Sudoku puzzle. Ed continues to study the ferry schedule. We have a two and a half hour wait on Lopez Island. Looks like we’ll have time to explore whatever is in walking distance of the dock. It’s nearly 16 hours since we left home and I’m tired, I’m sure that Ed is too.*

10:15 a.m. Arrive Friday Harbor, we depart from the car deck for a trek around town.

11:30 a.m. After walking around town and buying a lunch to go, we board M/V Evergreen State for stops at the other islands and to get off at Lopez Island.

11:39 a.m. The boat departs for the islands, clockwise around Shaw to Orcas.

12:33 p.m. We finally dock at Orcas Island to let off cars and passengers and load others for this inter-island trip.

12:49 p.m. We pull away from Orcas Island and head for Shaw. Nancy is sleeping on one of the benches, oblivious to the boat’s movement (or maybe because of it)!

12:50 p.m. We dock briefly at Shaw Island. We could get a ferry here to Anacortes, but we will get off at Lopez where we will get a later ferry to Anacortes (at 3:35 p.m.).

1:03 p.m. Leave Shaw for our final San Juan Island destination at Lopez Island. We hope there is something to drink and someplace to sit in the shade there. We have never been there before and hope we will not have to sit on a deserted island with no hope of rescue. These are the visions born of traveling since yesterday.

1:10 p.m. *I just woke up from a little nap. What a view! Mt. Baker and surrounding Cascades to the northeast and here in the Sound a ribbon of fog lies between two islands even though everywhere else there’s sunshine. This is it, Lopez Island! Awaiting us at the dock is the Krusty Krab and porta-potties. Not quite as dire as Ed prophesized. Mt. Baker is visible*

through the trees from where I sit. Right now I’m contemplating a frosty can of Mug root-beer.

3:20 p.m. We board M/V Hyak and make ready for the trip to Anacortes. Having accomplished our mission in the San Juans, our only remaining task is to catch the Keystone ferry to Port Townsend and finish that ride before 7:28 p.m. That will give us the entire route system (except for the Vashon foot ferry) within the U.S. for the WSF.

3:34 p.m. The M/V Hyak leaves the dock on Lopez, heading for Anacortes.

4:15 p.m. The M/V Hyak docks at Anacortes and we begin the hike to the upper parking lot to retrieve our car.

5:50 p.m. Board M/V Klickitat for our last ride of the day to Port Townsend.

6:30 p.m. M/V Klickitat docks at Port Townsend. *We made it, with 58 minutes to spare!!!*

Here is a list of the ferries and times for the whirlwind tour on 7/6/07 and 7/7/07. Eleven boats in all, stopping at nineteen different WSF docks in the U.S. ↴

How They Did It . . .

Departure	Time	Vessel	Arrival	Time
Southworth	7:28 p.m.	M/V Issaquah	Vashon	7:40 p.m.
Tahlequah	8:35 p.m.	M/V Rhododendron	Pt. Defiance	8:47 p.m.
Fauntleroy	10:35 p.m.	M/V Issaquah	Southworth	11:13 p.m.
Bremerton	11:42 p.m.	M/V Walla Walla	Pier 52 (Seattle)	12:35 a.m.
Pier 52 (Seattle)	1:42 a.m.	M/V Tacoma	Bainbridge Island	2:15 a.m.
Kingston	5:05 a.m.	M/V Puyallup	Edmonds	5:28 a.m.
Mukilteo	6:30 a.m.	M/V Kitsap	Clinton	6:48 a.m.
Anacortes	8:54 a.m.	M/V Kaleetan	Friday Harbor	10:15 a.m.
Friday Harbor	11:39 a.m.	M/V Evergreen State	Orcas Shaw Lopez	12:33 p.m. 12:56 p.m. 1:20 p.m.
Lopez Island	3:34 p.m.	M/V Hyak	Anacortes	4:15 p.m.
Keystone	6 p.m.	M/V Klickitat	Pt. Townsend	6:30 p.m.

Vendor Spotlight

Since 1992 Carol Jelinek has owned and operated Commuter Comforts Espresso at the Bainbridge Island Terminal. With two strategically placed locations, Jelinek and her crew of experienced baristas, have the coffee market cornered at the terminal.

After 15 successful years, Jelinek has agreed to sell the business to long-time employee Jackie Degrow and her husband Chris Cooley. Jackie is a Bainbridge Island local who was born and raised on the island.

The majority of their business comes through the espresso bar adjacent to the terminal building, which is conveniently located for walk-on passengers. It is common to see thirsty travelers lined up across the sidewalk. The team of baristas efficiently handles the throngs of customer, as they turn out beverages and food, always with the departure of the next vessel looming on the minds of the anxious passengers.

A few yards away, situated next to the holding lanes is Commuter Comforts second location at the terminal. Although not as busy, the holding-lanes location still does a nice job of keeping drive-on passengers in need of caffeine at bay.

Commuter Comforts serves locally roasted Mukilteo Coffee which produces a blend just for Commuter Comforts called Bainbridge Island Blend.

If you are at the Bainbridge Island Terminal and in need of a coffee or something to eat, rest assured in knowing that Commuter Comforts has all corners covered. [↓](#)



Fairs and Festival Season is in Full Swing at WSF

Washington State Ferries is hosting a booth at local fairs and festivals throughout the Puget Sound region this summer and fall. We have participated in events as far north as Friday Harbor and as far south as Vashon Island. Fairs and festivals "season" is off to a great start, but far from over.

There are still six more events coming up between September and October, in communities such as Bremerton, Mukilteo and Tacoma to name a few.

If you are in town, don't forget to stop by our booth and say hello. We are looking forward to meeting those of you who live and work in the communities we serve. We'll see you at the fairs and festivals! [↓](#)

Fairs and Festivals Dates

Bremerton Blackberry Festival	September 1 - 3
Wooden Boat Festival (Port Townsend)	September 7 - 9
Salmon Homecoming (Seattle)	September 7 - 9
Mukilteo Light House Festival	September 8 - 9
Commencement Bay Festival (Tacoma)	September 15 - 16
Fauntleroy Community Association Fair (West Seattle)	October 14



WSF terminal employees Jeani High and Glenn Welk staff the booth at the Anacortes Waterfront Festival this past May.

WSF Through the Years

It became apparent shortly after the State of Washington took over regional ferry service from Black Ball Line in 1951, that there was a need for more vessels capable of carrying both passengers and vehicles. To fill this need, Washington State Ferries (WSF) turned to Baltimore, Md., for two out-of-service ferries.

The ferries - Gov. Herbert O'Connor and Harry W. Nice - sat idle in Chesapeake Bay after the construction of a bridge put the two vessels out of service. WSF purchased and readied them for service on Puget Sound, renaming the vessels M/V Rhododendron and M/V Olympic, respectively.

M/V Rhododendron is seen here in 1957 as it pulls into the

Point Defiance ferry dock.

The modern terminal at Point Defiance had not yet been constructed at the time of this photo. In the background is the 563-foot Asarco smelter smokestack which was demolished in 1993, signaling

a new beginning for the waterfront at Point Defiance.

The two vessels were constructed in 1947 and the M/V Rhododendron is still in service today. Its sister ship, M/V Olympic was retired in 1997. [↓](#)



M/V Rhododendron as it pulls into the Point Defiance ferry dock. Looming in the background is the 563-foot Asarco smokestack, which was demolished in 1993.

Fall Ferry Schedule Takes Effect

The Fall Sailing Schedule goes into effect on Sunday, September 30, and runs through January 5, 2008.

For a complete copy of the schedule, go to the WSF Web site:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries



Olympic Peninsula Offers a Lifetime of Fun for Family Vacations

Jefferson County, on the northeastern tip of the Olympic Peninsula, is home to several of Washington's most historic waterfront communities. These small communities in quiet settings are great spots for family vacations, boating, golfing and much more.

Port Townsend, the nostalgic Victorian Seaport is the gateway to the Olympic Peninsula.

Founded in 1851, Port Townsend is a city of 8,400, which prides itself on its historic charm, maritime heritage and stunning natural setting. Port Townsend is home to Northwest Boat School, one of the premiere wooden boatbuilding schools in the world. Each year Port Townsend shows off this heritage at the Wooden Boat Festival. This year's festival is Friday - Sunday, Sept. 7 - 9. WSF is hosting an information booth at the Wooden Boat Festival, so make sure to stop by.

A few miles to the south is Port Ludlow, a residential and recreational community built up around the shores of Ludlow Bay. The natural environment offer hikes on wooded trails and paths, digs for clams and oysters along the beach, drives through scenic countryside, bicycling and jogging. For water lovers, there is a marina as well as boat launches for sailing, power boating, fishing, windsurfing and kayaking. Golfing is a year around

activity at the Resort at Port Ludlow Bay's 27 hole golf course. The summertime Friday Market is a community gathering place to meet friends, purchase produce, plants or art from local artists and crafts people.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Port Ludlow's annual "Funfest...by the bay" Friday - Sunday, Sept. 14 - 16. Funfest features arts and crafts, children's entertainment, and for the adults; a beer and bratwurst tent. A highlight of the event is a poster art contest in which local residents submit artwork with a local theme. The winner receives a prize and the poster is then printed on special acid free paper and sold as a limited edition. Festival goers can then purchase a signed and numbered copy of the poster at the Funfest information booth.

Stop by Port Ludlow for the *Funfest...by the bay*; you might decide to stay for a lifetime.

For more information on Port Ludlow, Jefferson County and the Olympic Peninsula, please visit the Visitor Information displays onboard the ferries and at these websites:

www.portludlowchamber.org

www.olympicpeninsula.org



Port Townsend on the Olympic Peninsula is a paradise for boating enthusiasts. Photo courtesy of Steven J. Brown.

Calendar of Events

September 15 - 16
Port Ludlow Fun Fest...by the bay

September 28 - 30
Port Townsend Film Festival

The seventh annual Port Townsend Film Festival is a film lover's block party celebrating great films and filmmakers. For more information, visit www.ptfilmfest.com

October 2 - 7
North Olympic Fiber Arts Festival, Sequim

This interactive fiber arts event connects to the community with museum exhibitions, educational demonstrations of fiber processes, hands-on projects with children and adults, sale of local artists work, and information about local fiber activities, groups, businesses, and instructional resources. For more information, visit www.fiberartsfestival.org

October 13 - 14
Dungeness Crab & Seafood Festival, Port Angeles City Pier

The Dungeness Crab & Seafood Festival is the annual celebration of the region's diverse bounty - the seafood, the maritime and cultural traditions and the breathtaking coastal environment. For more information, visit www.crabfestival.org

October 19 - 21
The Forest Storytelling Festival, Peninsula College, Port Angeles

The thirteenth annual festival features the storytelling of internationally acclaimed storytellers Syd Lieberman of Illinois and Joseph Naytohow from Saskatchewan, California. For more information, visit www.dancingleaves.com/storypeople

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SoundCrossings

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WSF Executive Director, Mike Anderson
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