

# Rideshare Currents



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## Renewal Time for WSF Permits WSF Offers Grace Period Through March 15th

All existing WSF Vanpool, Carpool, and Bicycle permits expired on February 28, 2003. WSF is, however, extending a grace period for renewals through March 15, 2003. After this date, expired permits will not be accepted.

We encourage all customers with an email address to register or renew their permit online. Customers with an online account enjoy the advantage of independently updating much of their information, rather than contacting WSF in order to make changes. This means your account can always be current and you can review it at your convenience.

To renew your permit, or create an online account, visit the following link, which will take you directly to the WSF Account Log In page  
<https://secure.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/account/>

- If you do not currently have an online account, you will need to create one. You must also provide pertinent information including your address, phone number, vehicle and riders.
- If you registered online last year, you will only need to log in to your account, review the information, make changes if necessary, and then submit the renewal. (Note: If the email address you used last year is no longer valid or in use, *do not create a new account*. Log in using your old address and update the email address on the account detail page.)

You may pay the \$20 registration fee with a credit card.



### Inside this issue:

Vanpool Perks .....	2
Save Money .....	2
Vanpool #416 .....	3
FlexCar .....	3
Rideshare Week .....	4
Avoid Ferry Lines.....	4

## Carpools Receive Financial Incentive To Trade Up To Vanpool

For a limited time, carpools registered with Washington State Ferries that trade up to a public vanpool will gain more than just extra riders. Rideshare Plus is offering financial incentives for all registered carpools that trade up to a public vanpool. They will even provide personalized assistance to help you find other riders to form the vanpool.

Incentives include: First two months of vanpooling is FREE for any registered WSF carpool that forms a public vanpool. Up to \$260 in vouchers for each vanpooler to spend at local retailers such as REI, Union 76 or Flexcar.





## Enjoy the Many Perks of Vanpooling

### Benefits to Vanpooling!

- No vehicle fare is charged for registered vanpools on the Washington State Ferries.
- Save wear and tear on your car, put the miles on a Metro or Kitsap Transit van.
- Registered vanpools receive preferential loading on Washington State Ferries.
- Rideshare Plus can help place you in an existing vanpool group or assist you in forming a new one—a minimum of five vanpoolers is required.
- Low monthly public vanpool fare covers vehicle, gas, insurance, and maintenance.

Hurry, these special trade-up incentives are limited. Call immediately to find other riders to start your vanpool today!

If you have any questions about ridesharing or would like help starting a vanpool, call Julie Paone, King County Metro's Rideshare Plus Representative at (206) 263-6088 or (206) 515-3828.

Rideshare Plus is a personalized commute assistance program brought to you by King County Metro, Kitsap County and the Washington State Ferries.

## Save Money, Save Time

Every mile you drive costs you in gas, oil and tires... to the tune of \$211 per month!\*

Join a King County or Kitsap Transit vanpool and get everything you need to commute in one low monthly fare: gas, insurance, maintenance and more.

Vanpools also take advantage of Washington State Ferries' preferential loading. For a small annual fee, your vanpool will have a reserved space on the sailing of your choice and have the vehicle charge waived! If you drive across everyday, that benefit alone can save you over \$3,000 annually.

You can also save time by carpooling and vanpooling. Carpools and vanpools are guaranteed to make their desired sailing, provided they arrive 10 minutes prior to the departure time.

Conversely, those commuters who drive alone typically face a much longer wait time for catching the ferries:

### Average Morning Wait

Clinton: 30-45 minutes  
 Kingston: 30-45 minutes  
 Bainbridge Island: 20 minutes  
 Bremerton: 30-40 minutes  
 Southworth: 30-45 minutes

### Average Afternoon Wait

Mukilteo: 30-45 minutes  
 Edmonds: 30-60 minutes  
 Pier 52: 30-60 minutes  
 Fauntleroy: 45-60 minutes  
 Vashon: 45-60 minutes



\*AAA of Washington estimate of a 40 round-trip mile commute at \$.32 per mile.

To submit story ideas or comments, please send them:

### RIDESHARE CURRENTS

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Produced by the partnerships of Washington State Ferries, King County Metro, and Kitsap Transit. Photos by Stephen J. Brown and Chris Gendron.

This information is available in accessible formats on request at

## Meet Kitsap Van #416 — “The Cookie Vanpool”



Left to right: Glenn Zwinger, Kathy Chadband, Linda Gillespie-Gateley, Betty Seigal, Annie Berfield and Carol Rodda. Not shown are Rocco Bagala, Lynne Horsefield and Paul Gateley.

Some of the best-spoken words about vanpooling I've heard came during a conversation I had with Anne Berfield, a member of Kitsap Transit Van #416.

Anne said that the secret to a successful vanpool is a mix of good people and good fun. When I went to Colman Dock to photograph this infamous vanpool, I realized that that's what keeps them truckin' (or Vanpooling to be more accurate).

KT Van #416 is more commonly and affectionately referred to as “the Cookie Vanpool.” The reason for this: they have a yearly holiday cookie exchange. And, they share these home-baked goodies with Washington State Ferries and Kitsap Transit employees as a token of their appreciation.

The Cookie Vanpool consists of nine full and part time vanpoolers, and has been operating for three years now. Two of the present members have been pooling together for over 15 years!

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## Flexcar Now Closer, Easier To Access

Flexcar has partnered with Washington State Ferries, Kitsap Transit, King County Metro and the City of Seattle to provide a great amenity to ferry riders: a car on the other side! With vehicles permanently parked at Bremerton, Bainbridge and Colman docks, you can now have a car on the other side without driving one on the ferry.

Flexcar members can reserve and drive these cars for about \$7 per hour, which includes parking, gas

All of the members are Federal government employees. Eight members work at the VA Medical Center on Beacon Hill. They have five Certified drivers, three that serve as primary drivers: Kathy Chadband, Rocco Bagala, and Linda Gillespie-Gateley.

Each member shares responsibilities including driving, finances, pumping gas, checking the oil, wiping the windshield, and keeping the vehicle clean.

I asked the group how they manage to stay together, besides using cookie bribery? In their own words, they:

- Recognize the positive attributes each person contributes to the group.
- Share some of their personal joys and disappointments, many jokes, and best of all, snacks they purchase from Costco.
- Meet at one park and ride (Bainbridge) and all work at one location (the VA Medical Center on Beacon Hill). They have strict timelines and members know they either get there on time or take the bus.
- Maintain a very tight knit group.

So, has their respect for one another and appreciation of fun kept them together all these years? Or, has the fact that they've been together all these years allowed them to forge a deep respect and appreciation for one another? We may never know. But, we do know we'll see them on the ferry in their van, give them a smile, and beg for a cookie.

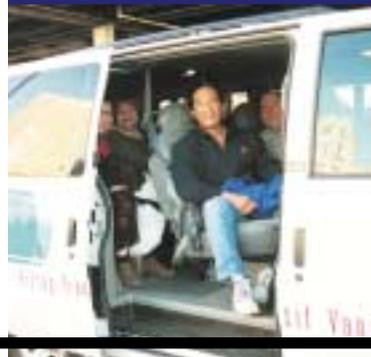
and insurance. You can reserve the car via touch-tone phone, get off the ferry, take your trip and return with no hassles, no paperwork and no lines! And, Flexcar has more than 80 cars and pick-up trucks located throughout Seattle and the Eastside.

For more information and to get a Flexcar lifetime membership for only \$25 (only \$5 for FlexPass holders), visit their Website at [www.flexcar.com](http://www.flexcar.com).



**Do you have questions about ridesharing on the ferries?**

Send your questions or story ideas to Rideshare Currents. Deadline for the next publication is March 31st. Look forward to hearing from our readers.





## Local Commuters Won Big During Rideshare Week 2002

In the last edition of Rideshare Currents, we ran an article encouraging sole commuters to test drive an alternate commute mode for one week in October. We also encouraged those who already participate to enter to win prizes just for continuing to use their alternate commute form.

Rideshare Week has been held in mid-October every year since 2000. It is overseen by Washington State Ridesharing Organization, an organization for individuals dedicated to encouraging policy makers, employers, and commuters to support the use of alternative transportation modes to reduce air pollution, traffic congestion, and energy consumption throughout Washington State and the Northwest.

Those who participated in Rideshare Week 2002 won great prizes. Everyone received a free companion coupon for Amtrak Cascades, good for any destination served by Amtrak Cascades (Vancouver, British Columbia to Eugene, Oregon).

Those in the Puget Sound region, as an added bonus, who registered or updated their commute information

between Sept. 16 and Oct. 18 were entered into weekly drawings for Commuter Bonus Plus vouchers valued at \$25 each. RideshareOnline.com also hosted a drawing for two grand prizes worth \$100 each, which were awarded at the end of the Rideshare Week campaign.

These RideshareOnline.com prizes were in addition to the statewide prize drawing. The drawing featured fabulous prizes, from airline tickets to attaché cases. Visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/partners/wsro/rideshare/prizes.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/partners/wsro/rideshare/prizes.htm) to view prizes and recipients.

Over 25,000 people participated in Rideshare Week 2002. The Rideshare Week team, coordinators and all of the participants helped make Rideshare Week a glowing success. Participants came from over 1,300 worksites throughout Washington state.

For information on Rideshare Week, participation or sponsorship in 2003, please call (253) 591-5380 or (253) 502-8224. Visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/partners/wsro/rideshare/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/partners/wsro/rideshare/) for general information about Rideshare Week.

### Currents Trivia

Washington State Ferries currently has:

1036 Bicycle Permits  
205 registered Carpool Permits  
163 registered Vanpool Permits

1404 Total in HOV programs (includes bicycle pass program, carpool, and vanpool)



## Avoid the Ferry Line Altogether with Vanshare

If you drive 10 miles or less from home to the ferry dock or from the ferry dock to work, then VanShare is for you. For a \$50 monthly group fare, plus gas, King County Metro or Kitsap Transit will provide a van near the ferry terminal or your home. Plus, parking, insurance, maintenance and roadside assistance are included in your low monthly fare.

VanShare provides vans at either end of your ferry commute. Join a VanShare from home or a park-and-ride and park FREE at or near the ferry terminal.

- Minimum of 4 riders.
- Group cost is \$50 per month plus fuel is split among the riders.

- Rideshare Plus will help you find other commuters.
- First month FREE for new vanshare groups
- The low monthly fare covers the van, insurance and maintenance.

For more information on the VanShare Program, please call Julie Paone, King County Metro's Rideshare Plus Representative at (206) 263-6088 or (206) 515-3828.

