

Pirates Invade Washington State Ferries in Quest for Smiles

BANG! A blast of black smoke and the smell of gunpowder fill the air as a seasoned crew of scallywags and swashbucklers storm your way!

For nearly six decades the Seafair Pirates have frightened, entertained and inspired children and adults alike during Seattle's month-long Seafair celebration. Despite their bad-guy image, the Pirates make dozens of appearances annually at hospitals and nursing homes. During the height of Seattle's Seafair Celebration, they appear at several events and parades each day.

The Seafair Pirates are unlike typical pirates who desire treasure.

"We don't covet gold and jewels like other pirates. Our treasure chest is full of smiles," Public Relations/Promotions Director and fellow pirate Mark "Keelhaul" Jensen said.

One of the goals of the Seafair Pirates is to turn into smiles that frightened look on the faces of children who encounter them for the first time. They accomplished their goal when the outgoing and incoming captains of the Seafair Pirates boarded the M/V Tacoma for a "Changing of the Guard" ceremony on May 30.

With a shake of the hand, outgoing captain Junior "Gunner" Odman symbolically passed the torch to incoming captain, Kevin "Metal" Craft. During a one-year tenure as captain, the pirate assumes the identity of "Captain Kidd." Command of the Seafair Pirates officially changes hands at the Seafair Pirates Landing at Alki Beach. The landing at Alki is the first official mission for the incoming captain. It is also the official start of Seafair. This year's landing is on July 7, between 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The Seafair Pirates also elect a "Davy Jones" who serves as right hand to the captain during the Seafair Parade. The two get the privilege of riding atop the pirates' trusty vessel, Moby Duck, a WWII amphibious landing craft, thinly disguised as a Spanish galleon.



Incoming Seafair Pirate Captain Kevin Craft and outgoing captain Junior Odman on board M/V Tacoma, capture the smiles of children for their treasure chest.

For outgoing captain, Junior Odman, his term was an historic one. It was the first time in their 58-year history that both a father and son had reached the highest ranks of the Seafair Pirates. Junior's father, Bob "Oddsmaker" Odman, served as captain in 1994. At the 2006 Seafair Parade, Bob served as Junior's "Davy Jones" which was the first time a father and son have served together as "captain" and "Davy."

"Big boots to fill they were," Junior said of his father. "I'm still trying to fill them. He was a great captain."

The highlight of Junior's year as captain came at the Seafair Parade riding atop the Moby Duck with his father at his side.

"That was the best part of my year, having my dad tell me how proud he was of me. Words can't describe how it made me feel," he said.

The Seafair Pirates have a simple mission that has guided them through the years.

Individually we can all make a difference. Together we can make an impact.

For more information on the Seafair Pirates and the Landing at Alki Beach visit their website at www.seafairpirates.org.

Commuting With the Kids

There is a growing demographic of commuters who are literally growing up on state ferries.

These days it's common to see parents and their young children traveling together aboard state ferries during some of the busiest commutes of the day. Many of these parents are transporting their kids to some form of daycare.

One such parent is Lisbet Miekkel. For the past two and a half years, Lisbet and her son Jack, who is 4 years old, have been commuting from Bainbridge Island to Seattle four days a week. On two of those days Jack's grandparents pick him up across the street from Colman Dock. The other two days, Lisbet takes Jack to Kid's Centre pre-school in Post Alley.

During the past two and a half years Jack has become a bit of a celebrity and learned some important life lessons while commuting to Seattle with his mom.

"He's kind of like a rock star on the boat," Lisbet said. "When he's not with me people always come up to me and ask 'Where's Jack?'"

On most days, Jack and his mom sit with a group of regular commuters who refer to themselves as the "Ferry Pod." The Ferry Pod has watched Jack grow from a



Jack and his mom, Lisbet, patiently wait to board the ferry at Bainbridge Island.

20-month-old infant to a 4-year-old boy. The group has celebrated Jack's birthdays and takes a genuine interest in his development.

With the celebrity status comes hard lessons. Jack has learned some important life lessons on the ferry such as patience, the value of money and how to recycle.

Commuting on a ferry requires passengers to patiently wait in line, which can be difficult for a 4-year-old. It can also be difficult for a 44-year-old. Jack is well trained and has assimilated to this aspect of ferry travel quite well considering his age. On the days they eat breakfast on the boat, Lisbet gives Jack his own money so he can purchase his chocolate milk and yogurt just like the adults do. When he's done eating, he takes his trash and the trash of those who sit near him and distributes it into the appropriate waste and recycling containers.

Lisbet has met other parents who commute with their children since she and Jack began commuting together. She has become friends with several of them and has even picked up some practical knowledge from veteran commuters like Shelly Fagerlund.

Shelly has been commuting to work with her children for seven years. Her eldest child is now of school age and has retired from ferry commuting, but her two youngest daughters, Lais and Mazzy, are in tow most mornings. After seven years, Shelly knows most of the tricks of the trade. She even recommended Kid's Centre to Lisbet.

For Shelly, one of the biggest challenges of commuting with kids is what to do with her stroller and other gear, when the children need to use the restroom, or just want to go outside for a few minutes. Thankfully, there are other parents who understand what she is going through, and are willing

Continued on page 3.

Steel Electrics Going Strong After Eight Decades

Most of those turning 80 years old no longer work full-time schedules. In fact, most 80-year-olds are retired and don't work at all.

The same cannot be said of the four Steel Electric vessels in Washington State Ferries' (WSF) fleet. The M/V Illahee, M/V Klickitat, M/V Nisqually and M/V Quinault are all turning 80 this year. There are no grand celebrations planned to commemorate this milestone. Instead, it's business as usual for the Steel Electrics, which are the oldest ferries in service on salt water in the United States.

The four vessels are the final remnants of the Puget Sound Navigation Company – commonly referred to as Black Ball Line – the predecessor to WSF. They've survived nearly every type of weather condition imaginable, had two major rebuilds, and still keep going like Energizer batteries.

"The love and the care of the engineering staffs on the boats and the crews at the Eagle Harbor maintenance facility are a big part of why these ferries are still in service after 80 years," WSF Chief Mate Brandon Moser said.

With a capacity of about 60 cars and more than 600 passengers, the Steel Electrics are the only boats in the state's fleet that are small enough and agile enough to navigate the terminals at Keystone and Port Townsend, where they primarily operate.

The Steel Electrics were originally part of a sextet of ferries built in 1927 for service on San Francisco Bay. In 1940 the six vessels were purchased by Black Ball Line

from the defunct Southern-Pacific Golden Gate Ferry Company for \$330,001 – outbidding a Brazilian company for the vessels by one dollar. In addition to the four vessels still in service, WSF purchased the M/V Willapa and the M/V Enetai, which are now retired.

The M/V Illahee, the first of the fleet to make the journey north, very nearly didn't make it, encountering heavy seas off the coast of Oregon. The ferry was abandoned while the waves thrashed around it. With engines still operating, the vessel was able to stay pumped out and avoid sinking despite sustaining heavy damage.

The damage to the M/V Illahee was repaired and the vessel, along with the other Steel Electrics, was readied for service on Puget Sound.

When WSF purchased the Steel Electrics from Black Ball in 1951, the vessels were considered the "backbone of the fleet." Beginning in the late 1950's, the Steel Electrics were modernized. All the boats had their decks enlarged by eight feet and the passenger cabins were modernized.

In October of 1962, the M/V Nisqually suffered one of the worst accidents ever encountered by a state ferry. In thick fog on the Kingston/Edmonds route the vessel was rammed by a freighter. The bow of the other vessel sliced right into the side of the ferry and into the passenger cabin. Miraculously, no one was hurt.

The ferry system painted a gold band on the smoke-stack of each Steel Electric in 1977, symbolizing 50 years of service. It was at this time that the system was modernizing the fleet as well. Looking at the Steel Electrics, it was determined that the boats could be modernized again, adding another 20 years to their service life.

In 1982 the M/V Klickitat went into the shipyard, was stripped down to the hull and rebuilt from the ground up. The rest of the Steel Electrics were to follow. By 1987 all four of the vessels had been rebuilt and readied for continued service for years to come. Included in the renovation was the addition of brass rails and oak woodwork, which give the boats a stately look befitting their age.

"They are just fun little boats with nice oak and brass work. They have a certain class and elegance to them. They're not tremendously fast boats but they are comfortable," Moser said.

Fast-forward 20 years and the Steel Electrics are still going strong, although not as strong as they once did. Earlier this year the M/V Klickitat suffered a crack in its hull which required emergency repairs. The "Klick" was patched up and returned to service, although the vessel is now tied up at Todd Shipyard until mid-June for its annual maintenance. Also tied up at Todd Shipyard, is the M/V Illahee. Both vessels are undergoing extensive structural preservation.

The M/V Nisqually, which sat idly at Eagle Harbor for nearly four years, was recently revitalized. This past fall the ferry's boilers were fired up and new life was bred into the once idle vessel. The ferry underwent an extensive revitalization and returned to service on the Pt. Townsend/Keystone route while its sister ships undergo their annual maintenance.

M/V Quinault may be the most famous of the Steel Electrics after being featured in the 2002 surprise-hit horror movie "The Ring" starring Naomi Watts.

Make sure to visit Port Townsend or Keystone for a ride aboard a Steel Electric ferry. After all, these venerable icons of Puget Sound will one day retire.

(This story features excerpts from Steven J. Pickens's website: evergreenfleet.com. Pickens is the author of "Images of America: Ferries of Puget Sound") ↴



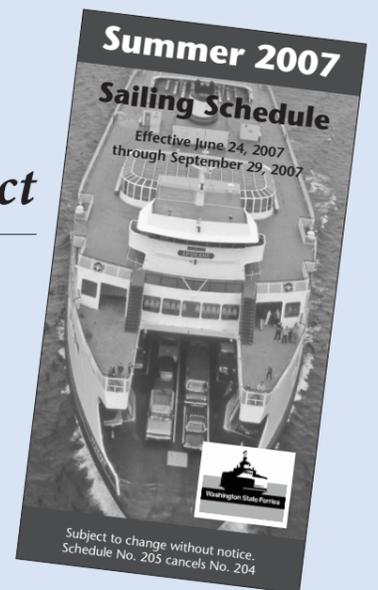
After eight decades, WSF's fleet of Steel Electric vessels – like the one seen above – are still in service.

Summer Ferry Schedule Takes Effect

The Summer Sailing Schedule goes into effect on Sunday, June 24, and runs through September 29, 2007.

For a complete copy of the schedule go to:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries



WSF is Coming Soon to a Town Near You

Festival season gives Washington State Ferries (WSF) a chance to put a personal face on a large organization by hosting booths at events in communities we serve.

WSF kicked off festival season with two events during the Month of May. WSF hosted booths at the Seattle Maritime Festival and the Anacortes Waterfront Festival.

The Maritime Festival is an annual event presented by the Port of Seattle and sponsored by WSF. The festival celebrates Washington's proud maritime tradition with three days of events on Seattle's historic downtown waterfront. The festival featured tugboat races, a chowder cook-off, World Invitational Survival Suit Race and a Quick and Dirty Boat Building Competition.

WSF hosted an informational booth at the Anacortes Waterfront Festival. The festival gave the public a chance to meet some of those who work behind the scenes at WSF.

Our next festival is the Bainbridge Island Grand Old Fourth of July, followed by the Vashon Island Strawberry Festival, July 13 – 15. WSF will be hosting booths throughout the summer at festivals in communities we serve. We look forward to seeing you soon at a festival in your neighborhood! ↴



Tugboats dot Elliot Bay during the Maritime Festival as a state ferry pulls out of Colman Dock.

2007 Fairs and Festivals Dates

Bainbridge Grand Old Fourth	July 4
Vashon Strawberry Festival	July 13 – 15
Jefferson County Fair (Port Townsend)	August 10 – 12
A Taste of Edmonds	August 10 – 12
San Juan County Fair (Friday Harbor, San Juan Island)	August 15 – 18
Island County Fair (Langley, Whidbey Island)	August 16 – 19
Kitsap County Fair	August 22 – 27
Bremerton Blackberry Festival	September 1 – 3
Wooden Boat Festival (Port Townsend)	September 7 – 9
Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival	September 7 – 9
Commencement Bay Maritime Fest (Tacoma)	September 15, 16
Salmon Homecoming	September (TBD)
Fauntleroy Community Association Fair	October (TBD)

Nature Hangs in the Balance at MOHAI

The delicate balance between nature and civilizations is on display at the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) in Seattle this summer.

“*Nature in the Balance*,” an exhibit which debuted on March 31, highlights the diverse relationship between people and nature in Washington State during the past 150 years, and depicts a wide range of experiences; from harmony to adversity, cooperation to exploitation. This exhibit presents a compelling story through a combination of historic and contemporary photographs, paintings and writings.

The story of Washington State and the Puget Sound region, as it was 150 years ago, and the need of early settlers to harvest the landscape for survival, is juxtaposed against a modern landscape, shaped by industry that arose from that need. According to exhibit curator Howard Giske, this story is told from the unbiased lens that only a history museum such as MOHAI can provide.

“A history museum has a unique opportunity to make a presentation like this, where there are not heavily-loaded value judgments being made,” he said. “We’re letting artists and photographers and writers speak for themselves. We’re letting history speak for itself.”

The exhibit is broken into sections focusing on specific topics. The sections on Water and Transportation provide insight into the unique relationship between Washington State Ferries (WSF) and Puget Sound.

An excerpt from “Resources and Attractions of Washington,” a publication of Union Pacific Railroad in 1890 says: “Water, water, everywhere...or so the old saying goes. And water does indeed flow everywhere in Washington State, whether in irrigation channels east of the mountains or from the gray skies to the west. Tiny dewdrops fall from the green needles of fir trees, storm surf tumbles big logs like wheat straw in the wind, and dammed-up rivers spread out into the biggest lakes in the state. Water sustains all the living stuff in the state, even in those places which nature had left dry.

“With its scores of navigable rivers, proudly led by the Columbia, on which water-craft can reach almost every important settlement; with its grand area of fresh water lakes, on which could float the navies of all nations; with its several important harbors along the west coast;...and with its incomparable inland sea, Puget Sound, what more could be asked in the way of navigation facilities?”



Canoe Pass, 1912. This opening at the south end of Fidalgo Island, near Deception Pass, earned its name because it was so narrow that only a canoe could fit through it. Once an obstacle to travel, this passage is now spanned by the Deception Pass Bridge, which WSF passengers cross when driving west towards the Anacortes Terminal on Fidalgo Island. PEMCO Webster & Stevens Collection, Museum of History & Industry.

The section on Transportation taken from “The Northwest Coast,” by James G. Swan in 1857, still rings true today. Swan writes: “There is no state in the Union that has so vast a communication by water as Washington Territory—the Columbia River on its south, the Pacific on the west, and the Straits of Fuca, Hood’s Canal, Admiralty Inlet, and Puget Sound on the north.”

Transportation choices in this region have a profound impact on nature. WSF, which is currently engaged in numerous initiatives to reduce fuel consumption and

emissions into the environment from its fleet, wrestles with the balance between nature and the need to transport goods and people around this region.

“*Nature in the Balance*” allows viewers to reach their own conclusions concerning the sometimes contentious relationships between nature and humankind. The exhibit runs until Sept. 9, 2007. For more information on this exhibit and others at MOHAI visit their website at www.seattlehistory.org.

“Commuting” continued from page 1.

to help out. For Lisbet, it can be a challenge getting to the boat on time. It has gotten better, though, since the first time they missed the ferry and Jack realized he wouldn’t be spending the day with his grandparents. Jack is now more conscious of time and makes sure he is ready to go in the morning.

There are some challenges to commuting with children on state ferries; however, there are also rewards. For John De Lanoy, who commutes with his son Keppler, the reward is a simple one.

“I see it as a huge bonus,” John said. “When we’re on the ferry we get to spend quality time together that would otherwise be spent driving in a car.”



During the crossing to Seattle, Lisbet and Jack sit with other families of commuters.

WSF Through the Years

The ferry Kalakala began service in 1935. Its streamlined design made it internationally famous. The ferry ran six times daily between Seattle and Bremerton, and made summer evening dance band party cruises around Puget Sound. Unfortunately, Kalakala vibrated badly; was difficult to handle and expensive to repair. Passenger service ended in 1967. The ferry was beached for use as a seafood processing plant in Alaska, rescued for restoration and towed back to Seattle in 1998, and moved in 2005 to Tacoma for further repair. This 1935 photo shows the Kalakala on her trial run along the Seattle waterfront. The ferry’s name means “flying bird” in the

trade jargon used by traders and Puget Sound native people.

“*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.



PEMCO Webster & Stevens Collection, Museum of History & Industry. Photographer: Charles W. Laidlaw

Bainbridge Blooms Better Than Ever in 2007

Bainbridge Island is known for its stunning natural beauty and easy accessibility to Seattle, friendly shops and delicious restaurants, a vibrant local art scene, and its annual Bainbridge In Bloom Garden Tour.

Celebrating its 19th year, Bainbridge In Bloom has expanded into a four-day gardening celebration, scheduled Thursday – Sunday, July 12-15, featuring new opportunities for visitors to embrace their inner artist and nurture the environment via workshops and lectures – all while enjoying some of the most beautiful private residential gardens in the Pacific Northwest.

Saturday and Sunday, July 14 and 15, are your chances to tour five owner-designed, owner-tended gardens of long-time island residents. The gardens, of varying size and scope, are long-established island treasures that have provided lofty, leafy, flowering sanctuaries for their island families, neighbors and friends for many years. Be sure to soak up words of gardening wit and wisdom from garden columnist, Mary Robson and Master Gardener Ciscoe Morris at lunch presentations in Battle Point Park. Learn how to garden “green” through a variety of sustainable gardening exhibitions in which tree experts, weed tamers, garden fertility wizards and bee keepers provide new insights and achievable, sustainable solutions for today’s gardening challenges at the presentations. And, shop till you drop at the Festival Arts & Crafts Fair for original local arts, crafts, plants and gardening goods.

As a special feature, Dan Hinkley, international plantsman and founder of Heronswood Nursery, will give a timely presentation: “Beautiful and Tough Drought-Resistant Plants” on Sunday, July 15.

The four-day gardening celebration kicks off on Thursday, July 12 with two, day-long, in-garden writing and painting workshops: “Germinating the Written Word,” with writer, teacher and garden designer, Lucy Hardiman, and “Painting Your Landscape,” with painter and illustrator Max Grover. Space for both workshops is limited and separate tickets are required so buy your tickets early.



Patron Day is Friday, June 13 – a special day earmarked for those who want to experience the garden tour independently – with special amenities and attractions exclusive to Patron’s Day participants. Visit www.gardentour.info for a complete range of Patron Day ticket options as well as workshop details and ticket prices.

From Seattle it’s only a 35-minute ferry ride to Bainbridge Island. A free Kitsap Transit bus will be at the Bainbridge ferry terminal to meet ferries departing Seattle from 8:45 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, July 14 and 15. Visitors will be taken to the Festival site where you will board an air-conditioned shuttle bus to tour the gardens. Buses will return to the ferry terminal throughout the day from the Festival site.

General garden tour tickets for adults are \$30. Tickets are \$10 for children under age 12. Tickets for seniors age 65 and over are \$25. Bike the Bloom tickets are \$20 and include a route map and bicycle parking. For more information and to purchase tickets call 206-842-7901 or visit www.gardentour.info.

The Bainbridge In Bloom Garden Tour is the primary fundraising event for the Bainbridge Island Arts & Humanities Council. When you tour our beautiful abundant gardens you help Bainbridge Island arts and humanities flourish too! 

Calendar of Events

June 1 – July 3
Manipulated Image II: The Computer as Medium; Gerry Newcomb: New Work, Bainbridge Arts and Crafts, Winslow Way East
 Two shows grace Bainbridge Arts and Crafts in June and July. “The Computer as Medium” showcases digital artwork by Algie Abrams, Debi Bodett, Jeff Brice, Ken Brookner, Karen Schminke, Sally Robison, Stephen Rock, and Diane Walker. New work by Gerry Newcomb features murals and sculptures cast from glass, metal, and stone. For more information, call 206-842-8182.

June 1 – October 13
Bainbridge Island Farmers Market, City Hall Park
 Opened every Saturday through mid October, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Wednesday’s, July 11 – September 12, 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. This is growing season and the produce is already bountiful. Choose from a variety of fresh vegetables or pick beautiful flowers for your home. The market is known for the work of Bainbridge Island artists and craftspeople that create their fine products by hand. For more information, visit www.bainbridgefarmersmarket.com

July 4
Grand Old Fourth of July Street Fair, Winslow Way, Madison Avenue
 A Rockin’ 40th Fourth. This 40th anniversary celebration in downtown Bainbridge Island is going to be rockin’. Festivities include a street fair, which is part of a day-long celebration that includes foot races, a Classic Car Show, our famous mile-long parade, and, music and entertainment. For more information, visit www.bainbridgechamber.com

July 6 – 31
In the Garden, Bainbridge Arts and Crafts, Winslow Way East
 Featuring paintings and photographs of gardens, as well as sculpture and garden furniture, all made by regional artists and craftsmen, come join us “In the Garden.” Timed to compliment Bainbridge in Bloom, this exhibition celebrates the distinctive gardens of the Pacific Northwest. For more information, call 206-842-3121.

July 21
2007 Bainbridge Bluegrass Festival, Battle Point Park
 This is a one-day family music festival and fundraiser for the historic Transmitter Building in the park. All-day Bluegrass music and family fun fair including food, children’s games, children’s music, and merchant’s booths runs from noon – 8 p.m. For more information, visit www.musiccommunityresources.com or call 206-842-5485.

DRIVER FOR HIRE
 Serving All King County and Surrounding Areas
(206) 423-9603
WWW.DRIVERFORHIRE.BIZ

Orcas Island Eclipse Charters
Whale Watching & Wildlife Eco Tours
 Departs at Jacobson's Landing next to the Orcas Island Ferry Dock since 1990
800-376-6566 or 360-376-6566
www.OrcasIslandWhales.com


PALACE HOTEL
 A Step Back in Time
 Restored 1889 Victorian Hotel
 1004 Water Street
 Port Townsend, WA
 1-800-962-0741

PIZZA FACTORY®
 Dine in • Take out • Delivery
Pizza • Pasta • Calzone • Sandwiches

WE DELIVER!
 in most areas

Visit all of our AWESOME locations!

Anacortes 360/293-1000 3219 Commercial Ave.	Arlington 360/435-8701 509 West Ave.
Bainbridge Island 206/842-8929 323 High School Rd NE	Belfair 360/275-2000 NE 23730 Hwy 3
Blaine 360/332-3636 738 Peace Portal Dr.	Burlington 360/757-0600 107 Cedar Ave.
Coupeville 360/678-3900 107 S. Main St.	Kingston 360/297-7777 10978 State Hwy 104
Oak Harbor 360/679-0300 947 Ault Field Rd.	Port Orchard 360/876-4556 1541 SE Piperberry Way
Port Townsend 360/385-7923 1102 Water St.	Sedro Woolley 360/855-9600 714 Metcalf
Sequim 360/582-9000 1400 W. Washington	

PIZZA FACTORY®
\$3.00 OFF XLG PIZZA
\$2.00 OFF LARGE PIZZA
\$1.00 OFF MEDIUM PIZZA

Valid at participating Pizza Factories only. Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per visit.

 **SoundCrossings**

June/July 2007, Volume 4, Issue 3
 SoundCrossings is published bi-monthly by Washington State Ferries for ferry riders. The WSF Administrative Offices are located at: 2901 Third Avenue, Suite 500 Seattle, WA 98121-3014
 WSF Executive Director, Mike Anderson
 Editor, Shawn Devine, 206-515-3771
 Advertising, Jill Andrews, 206-870-2470
 Design, WSDOT HQ Graphics, 360-705-7423

 **Washington State Department of Transportation**

Printed on Recycled Paper 