Vessel reliability awards

Each year, we honor the vessel engine crews and Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility personnel who achieve the highest level of fleet reliability. Over the past week, we presented Kitsap, Puyallup, Tillikum and Yakima engine room crews with our 2018 Customer Service Reliability Award. The award goes to a ferry that reaches 100-percent mechanical reliability in a calendar year, which is no lost trips due to mechanical failure. In 2018, two other vessels achieved this goal: Sealth and Tokitae. Thank you to everyone for your hard work and dedication to provide our customers with reliable service!

Kitsap: Oiler Beth LeBlanc, Chief Engineer Eric Liu and Assistant Engineer Patrick Quinanola with their award.

Puyallup: Deputy Director of Vessel Engineering and Maintenance John Bamonte (right) presents Assistant Engineer James Moyer with the award.

June 6, 2019

Happy birthday to us!

This week, we’re celebrating 68 years of safe and efficient service! On June 1, 1951, WSF began operations following the state’s purchase of the ferry system from Puget Sound Navigation Company (Black Ball Line). Happy birthday to us!

Seattle Post-Intelligencer news article from June 1, 1951, our first day of operations.
Canceled sailings in and out of Fauntleroy

Attention night owls who ride a ferry in or out of our Fauntleroy terminal! The following sailings will be canceled on the nights of Wednesday, June 12, Thursday, June 13, Wednesday, June 19 and Thursday, June 20, for maintenance work that will improve safety and reduce noise caused by vehicles travelling across the transfer span at Fauntleroy:

- Fauntleroy to Vashon and Southworth: 11:45 p.m., 1 a.m. and 2:20 a.m.
- Vashon to Fauntleroy: 10:50 p.m., 12:10 a.m. and 1:25 a.m.
- Southworth to Fauntleroy: 11:10 p.m., 12:30 a.m. and 1:45 a.m.

Service will continue between Vashon and Southworth as scheduled.

Additional staff hours at Kingston terminal

We recently started staffing an additional terminal employee at Kingston during busy traffic times Thursdays through Mondays to assist the back lot attendant in loading the holding lanes to capacity. During our fall, winter and spring schedules, we often have only one terminal attendant present, limiting our ability to load the holding lanes to capacity, sometimes causing backups through downtown Kingston.

Whenever there are two or more terminal attendants, Kingston's holding lanes will be loaded to capacity.

Vashon Sheepdog Classic this weekend

It will be a busy weekend on our Fauntleroy/Vashon/Southworth and Point Defiance/Tahlequah routes as people and pups from all over the world gather on Vashon Island. The Vashon Sheepdog Classic starts today and goes through Sunday, June 9, at Misty Isle Farms. Plan for heavier-than-normal vehicle traffic heading to and from the island and walk on our ferries if you can!

Orca Month
The canceled sailings are required so crews can repair the vehicle transfer span apron (red arrow) to improve safety and reduce noise.

Ticket seller retires after 51 years with WSF

In 1967, the Seattle Supersonics played their first game, a gallon of gas cost 33 cents and WSF Ticket Seller Steve Jackson started his long career with us. Steve worked at our Mukilteo terminal until 2009, when he transferred to Edmonds. That's where he reported for duty one last time on Friday, May 31, before beginning a much-deserved retirement. With 51 years of service, Steve is one of our longest-serving employees. Congratulations Steve and thanks for your half century of service!

I was on hand last year when Director of Operations Greg Faust presented Ticket Seller Steve Jackson with what's

June is Orca Month in Washington and we are proud of our continued partnership with the Orca Network to help protect and spread awareness of these magnificent mammals. Some of our efforts at WSF include quieting our vessels with our slow down program, having volunteer naturalists aboard our sailings and my participation in the governor’s Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force. You can help as well, by reporting whale sightings to our partners at Orca Network. If you would like to take part in Orca Month, check out these upcoming events to help celebrate!

Vessel noise reduction will be a key criteria for any new ferry construction as we work to protect orcas.

Protecting orcas by slowing down

In response to the governor’s executive order regarding Southern Resident Killer Whale recovery, we started slowing down this week on our Sidney, B.C. route for the third year in a row. Data collected from our voluntary slowdown with the 2017 Enhancing Cetacean Habitat and Observation Program showed that overall ambient sound intensity was reduced by 44 percent in the
believed to be our first 50-year service award.

Steve was one of three terminal employees to retire at the end of last month. The other two were ticket sellers Beth Gore and Vicky Stoudt. Their retirements are a big reason why workforce development is one of our top priorities. More than a third of our terminal workforce will be eligible for retirement within the next five years. We have hired nearly 60 new terminal employees so far in 2019.

**Amy Scarton**  
Assistant Secretary, WSDOT/Ferries Division

Haro Strait, a critical feeding ground for orcas. This reduction in noise has a significant positive benefit on a whale’s ability to locate and capture food as well as communicate with each other. Unless there is a safety or operational concern, we will be slowing down to 11.5 knots through the Haro Strait through October.

WSF Weekly Updates are available on our website at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly)  
Questions? Contact us at [WSFWeeklyUpdate@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:WSFWeeklyUpdate@wsdot.wa.gov)

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