A visit from Cal Maritime Academy

Our Tacoma deck and engine crew welcomed aboard California State University Maritime Academy’s Vice President for University Advancement Robert Arp and Cal Maritime alumnus David Rietmann last week. After meeting with our Operations Director Greg Faust, Vessel Engineering and Maintenance Director Matt von Ruden and Port Captain Jay Mooney, Robert and David watched our current Cal Maritime cadets in action on our Seattle/Bainbridge route. With more than 30 percent of our vessel workforce eligible for retirement within the next five years, these types of connections are crucial!

Robert Arp and David Rietmann (right-center) with Greg Faust, 2nd Mate and Cal Maritime graduate Jacob Trutanich, current WSF Cal Maritime cadets and Jay Mooney in the Tacoma wheelhouse.

Reliability award for Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility

August 8, 2019

Transportation Commission approves ferry fare increases

The Washington State Transportation Commission adopted increases to our current fares. Fares will go up 2.5 percent for vehicles and 2 percent for passengers on Oct. 1, 2019, and again on May 1, 2020. All fares will also go up 25 cents on May 1, 2020, for the capital surcharge dedicated to the construction of new vessels. The WSTC also authorized us to increase the reservation no-show fee up to 100 percent of the one-way fare paid, based on a standard-sized vehicle. No decisions have been made yet about this increase, and any decisions will be dependent on further community feedback.
Acknowledging our Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility employees and their critical role in the reliability of our ferries is an annual tradition. Vessel Engineering and Maintenance Director Matt von Ruden presented them with a reliability award last week. Four of the six vessels that had no missed trips in 2018 are 37 years old or older – Sealth, Kitsap, Yakima and Tillikum! Keeping these older boats sailing each day is a challenge, and the skilled maintenance crews at Eagle Harbor routinely step up and get the job done to keep our ferries in good working order.

*Tim Clancy, RJ Kelly, Nate Andrews, Don Gillespie, Ken Styron, Matt von Ruden, Todd Cheesman, Dan Langsdorf, Derrick Garrett, Landon Knuth, Dan Kampman and Steve Weible.*

Nicole McIntosh  
Chief of Staff, WSDOT/Ferries Division

Fares are going up to ensure $407 million in revenue by June 30, 2021, as required in the recently passed two-year state transportation budget.

**Additional Orcas Island sailing for Doe Bay Fest**

The annual Doe Bay Fest will bring heavy ferry traffic to and from Orcas Island through the weekend! If you plan to attend the grassroots music festival, vehicle reservations are highly recommended, but also in high demand. To help get more people back to Anacortes, we’re adding a sailing off Orcas at 10:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11. If you’re traveling to the event, have a wonderful time!

Expect heavy traffic on our sailings to and from Orcas Island through the weekend because of the popular Doe Bay Fest.