Happy 60th birthday, Tillikum!

This week, we celebrated our oldest active ferry, the Tillikum! I joined vessel crews, engineers and employees from our Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility yesterday to unveil of our first ever 60th anniversary insignia. The emblem will hang above the car deck on each end of the ferry until it is retired in 2023.

Celebrating Tillikum’s 60 years of service with Vessel Project Engineer Tim Clancy, Capt. Jack Hamstra, Deputy Director of Vessel Engineering & Maintenance John Bamonte, Eagle Harbor Maintenance Facility General Manager R.J.

February 28, 2019

Haiku contest submission period next week

Get ready to tweet your haiku to us next week for our 2nd annual haiku contest! We’re looking for a traditional haiku about the Washington State Ferries experience to be on the cover of our Summer 2019 Sailing Schedule. All you have to do is follow @wsferries, then post your poem on Twitter between noon Monday, March 5, and noon Friday, March 9. Be sure to include the hashtag #WSFHaiku. Read our blog for more information on rules and requirements.


Crushing concrete in Mukilteo
Kelly, Staff Chief Eric Haynes, Staff Chief Peter Miele, Staff Chief John Rossart and Port Engineer Jim Schubert.

During the employee appreciation event, we highlighted the hard work and great care from vessel crews and our maintenance team for having a role in making Tillikum one of our most reliable vessels. Over the last few years, it achieved 100-percent mechanical reliability—no breakdowns or missed trips due to mechanical failures. Without the men and women of WSF, we wouldn’t have a 60-year-old ferry in service! See event photos on Flickr.

Tillikum is our last Evergreen State class ferry in state service, operating on nearly every route in the system over its six decades. Today, it primarily serves as the interisland ferry in the San Juan Islands.

Capt. Jack Hamstra, WSF’s longest-serving captain, is interviewed by the media in the Tillikum wheelhouse.

Amy Scarton
Assistant Secretary, WSDOT/Ferries Division

It’s going to be loud, but it’s got to be done. IMCO, the contractor building our new Mukilteo terminal, is bringing in special equipment next week to break up pavement and crush concrete rubble that’s sitting in what will eventually be the holding lanes and toll plaza. The rubble comes from old walls around storage tanks at the former fuel storage facility that operated on the site from 1951 to 1990.

We will recycle these materials onsite rather than truck them away, in accordance with WSDOT’s recycled materials plan. To keep the dust down, crews will use water spray during this work, which is expected to last about a week. See photos on Flickr.

Concrete rubble at the future Mukilteo terminal sits ready to be crushed and reused onsite.

WSF Weekly Updates are available on our website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly

Questions? Contact us at WSFWeeklyUpdate@wsdot.wa.gov
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