



Ferry Matters

Guemes Island Ferry

A Skagit County Public Works Publication

Fall 2014

Ferry Manager's Corner

M/V Guemes haul-out 2014

This edition of Ferry Matters is dedicated to the upcoming ferry haul-out. The M/V Guemes will be at Foss Shipyard in Seattle from September 24, 2014 through October 14, 2014. The car ferry's last run will be at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 23, 2014. The vessel is scheduled to return to regular service at 6:30 a.m. on Thursday, October 15, 2014.



Prop maintenance 2012

To improve reliability, lower costs and protect capital improvement, Skagit County has adopted a maintenance program that includes an annual dry-docking of the Guemes Island Ferry.

Work to be done on the vessel during the haul-out period includes hull cleaning and painting, zinc replacement, UT shots of the hull and fire system piping, replacing hydraulic and oil lines for main engines and outdrives,

removing, re-conditioning and re-installing propellers, replacing seals in outdrives, piping modifications and steel renewal in the engine rooms, painting of the house, car deck and voids and other maintenance items. In addition, the M/V Guemes will be inspected by the U.S. Coast Guard for its required dry dock credit.

The last ferry haul-out took place in October, 2012; as such, the vessel is in need of a dry dock period. In an effort to cut costs, the ferry was not hauled out in 2013. In 2014, the ferry has been out of service twice for emergency maintenance. In the future, the M/V Guemes will be hauled out every year in order to prevent service interruptions between haul-outs.

We hope the information provided in this newsletter will address some frequently asked questions in regard to the haul-out. More detailed information on all topics will be available at www.skagitcounty.net/ferry and at www.lifetime.org. Please check these sites often. If you cannot find the answers to your questions, feel free to call me any time at (360) 419-7618.

Rachel Rowe



Ferry drydocking for maintenance in Seattle, 2012

Passenger-only service available

Arrow Launch will provide passenger-only service beginning September 24, 2014 at 6:30 a.m. that will operate according to the regular sailing schedule.

This service will operate on a first-come, first-served basis from the ferry's regular docks in Anacortes and on Guemes Island. The main terminal and ticket office is located at 500 "I" Avenue, Anacortes. The passenger-only vessel accommodates 49 passengers. Bicycles are okay, and small motorbikes will be allowed on a space available basis at the discretion of the Captain.

The passenger-only service will operate on the peak sailing and fare schedule through September 30, 2014. Beginning October 1, 2014, the service will operate on the non-peak sailing and fare schedule.

The sailing schedules and passenger fares can be found on our website. The sailing schedule is subject to change at any time based on operational needs. Additionally, runs may be

(Continued on next page)

We are pleased to provide you with pertinent ferry related information that we hope you will find helpful. This newsletter will be distributed every other month via the list serve; to sign up please email me at rrowe@co.skagit.wa.us. The newsletter will also be posted on our website.

Passenger-only service available during haul-out

(Continued from page one)

cancelled or delayed due to tides and/or weather. Important updates regarding ferry service will be posted on our website and sent out via our email notification list serve. For more information, please call the main ferry office at (360) 293-6433.

Note: Heavier than normal passenger traffic is expected the weekend of September 26 – 28, 2014, as there will be a large wedding on the Island. We will continue to operate on a first-come, first-served basis, and we will do our very best to get everyone where they need to go.

Skagit Transit to provide call-in service for Guemes Island ferry passengers

Shuttle Service Details:

Skagit Transit will provide call-in shuttle service for Guemes Island ferry users during the haul-out. The shuttle service will operate September 23 through October 15, 2014. The schedule will be as follows:

Monday-Thursday	7 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. 12:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday	7 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.
Saturday	7 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. 12:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Sunday – Sept. 23-30	8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. 12:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Oct. 1-15	12:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

To arrange a pick-up, please call the driver at least one hour ahead of your requested pick-up time, at (360) 770-0310. If they do not answer immediately, it may be because they are driving. If you are unable to reach the driver, call Dispatch at (360) 757-4433; press #1 and ask for Guemes Dispatch. Since the bus is not equipped with electronic fare boxes, the suggested fare is \$1 for a standard fare, and 50 cents for a reduced fare (disabled, 65 & older, and under 18).

Punch card expiration dates

Due to the 21-day haul-out, the expiration dates on some vehicle and driver punch cards will be extended for 30 days past the stamped expiration date. **The 30-day extension will apply only to vehicle and driver punch cards that are stamped with an expiration date of September 24, 2014, or later.**

If your vehicle and driver punch card expires prior to September 24, 2014, the extension will not apply. Please be aware that passenger punch cards may still be used during the haul-out; therefore, no extensions will apply to the stamped expiration date of passenger punch cards.



Suggestions to address potential parking congestion

In order to alleviate parking congestion, Skagit County highly encourages ride sharing and/or utilizing public transportation. Ferry parking is available near the ferry terminal in two County-owned lots. Note: No oversize vehicles (over 22 feet), dump trucks, RVs or trailers are allowed in these lots:

1. Large lot at 6th Street & K Avenue (best option) – 72 hour time limit; and
2. Small lot directly inside the ferry terminal area and to the east – 24 hour time limit.

Handicap parking will be available near the passenger ferry loading area. Please look for signs and be sure your handicap placard is hanging in the window. Angle parking will be allowed within certain portions of the ferry terminal area.

Please look for signs designating angle parking. If there is no sign allowing parking, or if parking is reserved, please do not park there. At all times, please keep the Skagit Transit bus turnaround zones clear for folks using public transit. For more information about parking, including long-term parking options and parking for oversize vehicles, please visit our website.

Helpful hints during ferry haul-out period

- ❑ When loading at both Anacortes and Guemes Island docks, please wait at the top of the ramp or designated passenger staging areas until all of the passengers have disembarked the vessel. This will help keep the loading and unloading areas clear and safe.
- ❑ If you need special accommodations or have limited mobility, please let a crewmember know. Wheelchairs will be available at each dock. You are welcome to call our office (360) 293-6433 in advance.
- ❑ Pay attention during the boarding and disembarking process and always follow the instructions of the Captains and crew. Please be aware of your surroundings at all times and watch your step. There will be plenty of time to chat with your neighbor on the boat ride across the channel.
- ❑ If you have bicycles, small motorbikes, carts, or cargo, you will need to stow those on the back deck of the passenger boat.
- ❑ Pets are allowed, but must be on leashes or contained

- within kennels, cages, etc. Pets are not allowed in the cabin. Horses are not allowed on the passenger-only vessel at any time.
- ❑ Personal folding carts can take up less room than wheelbarrows and are encouraged. Wheelbarrows will still be available at the dock.
- ❑ School children will have priority boarding on all scheduled school runs.
- ❑ Please allow yourself plenty of time to catch your desired sailing, especially on busy weekends.
- ❑ If you will be using the passenger service regularly, consider purchasing a walk-on punch card at the ferry terminal in advance. The 25-trip discounted passenger punch cards are good for one year.
- ❑ Skagit County is providing passenger service only during the haul-out. If you need to transport a vehicle between Anacortes and Guemes Island during the ferry shut-down, you will need to make your own arrangements.



Outdrive installation on M/V Guemes, Seattle 2012



Ferry deck bustles with drydock activity, Seattle 2012

Guemes Island Ferry

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