



Ferry Matters

Guemes Island Ferry

A Skagit County Public Works Publication

Summer 2014

Ferry Manager's Corner

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to receive this newsletter and our e-mail notifications! If you have not already signed up, I would encourage you to do so.

This year we have many projects going on at the ferry and the e-mail subscription list is the best way for us to get important notifications to you. These service announcements can help you plan and be prepared for what's coming.

The peak season has begun and our busiest months are ahead of us. This year we are replacing five dolphins on the Anacortes side. This project will start July 14 and construction will continue into late August. At times, runs may be delayed or even cancelled. If this becomes necessary, we will post notifications, in advance, on our website and via the email list serve. Please see more information in the 'Dolphin Project Update' section of this newsletter.

Finally, the Guemes Island Ferry staff welcomes several new crew members this year. We are pleased to have Van, Colin, Steve and Lisa join our team! All of our new hires are Purser Deckhands, and Colin and Steve hold 100-Ton Master's licenses. A big thank you to my amazing ferry staff for doing such a great job training everyone.

Rachel Rowe

Take advantage of technology...

Ferry riders now have the option of paying with a credit card in the ferry line as Purses are using an iPhone with a credit card reader to process payments.

This makes paying with a credit card convenient and eliminates the need for the Purser and customer to go into the office each time a credit card is being used. So far things are going fairly smoothly, but there are a few things to be aware of. First, because this is new technology for many, please be patient as everyone gets accustomed to it. As anyone who owns a cell phone knows, electronic devices can be finicky, and there will be times when inclement weather or technical issues will prevent the use of the iPhone.

If you need a credit card receipt, you have the option for one to be emailed to you from the iPhone; however, you must let the Purser know before the transaction goes through. You will also be asked to enter your email address into the iPhone. If you absolutely need a paper receipt, you must come into the office to complete the transaction.

4th of July is coming!



Prepare for holiday traffic impact

The 4th of July is here and, as most folks already know, ferry traffic significantly increases during holiday weekends. Thursday afternoon and evening, July 3, will likely be very busy going to the Island, so we might experience delays. If you are headed to Guemes Island on July 3, the earlier you can get in line the better. Please be aware that the ferry only operates until 8:30 p.m. that evening.

Here is the holiday weekend sailing schedule:

Thursday, July 3, Regular Sailing Schedule:

6:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Friday, July 4, Regular Sailing Schedule:

6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.*

Saturday, July 5, Regular Sailing Schedule:

6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Sunday, July 6, Regular Sailing Schedule:

8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

*The holiday falls on a Friday; therefore, the ferry will operate on its normal Friday sailing schedule.

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.

Foss Maritime awarded haul-out maintenance contract

On June 16, Public Works opened bids for the Haul-Out and Maintenance for the M/V Guemes. A total of four bids were received; Foss Maritime Company was the low bidder at \$366,657.

The Board of Skagit County Commissioners awarded the bid to Foss on Monday, June 30.

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.



Arrow Launch



Ferry to be drydocked for maintenance in fall

The ferry will be dry docked in Seattle, from September 24 through October 14. Arrow Launch Services will provide passenger-only service during the haul-out period. More details will be published in the next edition of 'Ferry Matters.'

Steel dolphin replacement to take place starting in July

In 2014, the last of the five creosote dolphins on the Anacortes side will be demolished and replaced with five new steel dolphins.

Upon completion of this project, the creosote dolphins will be completely eliminated at both ferry landings. Pacific Pile & Marine will mobilize to the site on July 14 and construction will begin July 15.

For the most part, the contractor will be working during the day and during normal ferry operations. Impacts to rider-

ship during construction should be minimal; however, some service disruptions may be necessary and ferry runs may be cancelled or delayed.

Notification of service interruptions will be posted, in advance, on our website and emailed to those on our email subscription list. For more information please contact Jennifer Swanson, Project Manager, at (360) 336-9400.

Thank you for contributions to Ferry Replacement Plan

Thank you to everyone who submitted comments for the Ferry Replacement Plan during the recent open comment period. All of the input we received is currently available on our website at www.skagitcounty.net and at www.linetime.org.

On August 26 Elliott Bay Design Group will present the Ferry Replacement Plan to the Board of Skagit County Commissioners at an open work session, 8:30 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

At that meeting, Public Works will address the public input received and make recommendations for moving forward. The work session will be held in the Board of Skagit County Commissioner's Hearing Room, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon. For more information please contact Ferry Operations Division Manager Rachel Rowe (360) 336-9400 or rrowe@co.skagit.wa.us.



Old pilings at Anacortes terminal; new pilings (inset)

Guemes Island Ferry

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