



# Ferry Matters

Guemes Island Ferry

A Skagit County Public Works Publication

Fall 2013



We are very pleased to provide you with pertinent ferry related information that we hope you will find helpful. This newsletter will be distributed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every other month. "Ferry Matters" will be distributed via the list serve; to sign up please email me at [rachelb@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:rachelb@co.skagit.wa.us). Copies will also be available at the Anacortes ferry terminal.

-Captain Beck

## Ferry Manager's Corner

A big thank you to everyone who attended the Guemes Island Community Forum hosted by the Board of Skagit County Commissioners on September 5, 2013. At the meeting, Cliff Butler, Road Operations Division Manager, thanked the Island residents for their patience during the chip sealing project that took place this summer. He also announced that they are finished with the bigger projects on the Island; they will, however, be over occasionally conducting routine maintenance. I'd like to thank Cliff's crew and the District 1 Supervisor, Kelly Allen, for working so well with us at the ferry and for providing important updates on impacts to ridership throughout the project. I'd also like to thank the ferry staff for working tirelessly to ensure smooth operations, providing excellent customer service, and safely transporting all of the traffic that was thrown their way. Great job guys!

## Did you know...

Following meetings with the Guemes Island Ferry Committee, the definitions for bicycles and motorcycles have been updated to reflect changes to U.S. Code which prohibit an electric assisted bicycle from being charged as a motor vehicle. Effective September 1, 2013, if a cycle requires a license plate (e.g. motorcycles, or scooters over 50cc), they will be charged the motorcycle rate. If a cycle does not require a license plate (e.g. electric assisted bicycles, or scooters under 50cc), they shall be charged the bicycle rate. Previously, the ferry system was using the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) definitions for the different types of cycles in order for ferry staff to determine what is considered a motorcycle and how to properly charge for a motorcycle. As of September 1, 2013, the ferry system now uses the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) definitions for motorcycles, mopeds, electric assisted bicycles and bicycles. For more information, please contact Rachel Beck, Ferry Division Manager, at (360) 419-7618 or [rachelb@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:rachelb@co.skagit.wa.us).



## Impacts to Ridership

The number two engine onboard the Guemes Island Ferry will be replaced with a spare engine on Wednesday evening, September 25, 2013, after the 6:45 p.m. run. This engine, originally installed in 2005, was removed from the vessel during the haul-out in October, 2012, but had to go back in after the re-built replacement failed. Because the engine has surpassed 30,000 hours and is showing signs of significant wear, it would be prudent to replace it now rather than waiting until the next haul-out which will take place in 2014. The replacement will be done overnight; the last run the car ferry will make on Wednesday, September 25, 2013, will be the 6:45 p.m. run. The ferry will then transition to Dakota Creek Shipyard for the work. Passenger-only service will be provided by Arrow Launch for the 8:00 p.m. run and the 8:30 p.m. run. The vessel is scheduled to return to service for the 6:30 a.m. run on Thursday, September 26, 2013. For more information, please contact Rachel Beck at (360) 419-7618.

**South Shore Project Update:** Interwest Construction Inc., plans to start construction on the South Shore Road Culvert Replacement and South Shore Road Slide Repair projects on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. South Shore Road will be closed at milepost 0.46 and at milepost 1.46 during construction. However, the contractor is not allowed to close the road at both locations at the same time. The road closure will be for 35 calendar days total. The contractor has 40 working days to complete both projects. During this project, there will be an increase in heavy truck traffic as the Contractor's crews work to haul material to the Island. Please allow yourself plenty of time to catch your desired sailing. We apologize for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience as we work to finish these important projects. For more information, please call Larry Krueger in Public Works at (360) 336-9400.

**Dolphin Project Update:** Next winter, the last of the five creosote dolphins on the Anacortes side will be demolished and replaced with 5 new steel dolphins. Upon completion of this project, the creosote dolphins will be completely eliminated at both the Guemes dock and the Anacortes dock. Skagit County received an 80% match grant for \$1.2 million from the Ferry Boat Discretionary Fund for this project. Total construction cost is estimated at \$1.5 million. As Per Skagit County's environmental permits, the fish window for the Anacortes Dolphin Replacement Project will occur between January 15 and April 15, 2014. Public Works is anticipating that the in-water work will take place more toward the end of the fish window. Work on the project may continue past the fish window for work that can be done out of the water. At this point, we are waiting for the Environmental Classification Summary to be approved to obligate construction funds through WSDOT, then we will go out for bid. Impacts to ridership during construction should be minimal. For more information, please call Jennifer Swanson in Public Works at (360) 336-9400.

## Sailing Schedule & Fare Update:

As we wind down from summer, please remember that the last day of the peak season is September 30, 2013. The non-peak sailing schedule and fares, which will go into effect on October 1, 2013, can be found at [www.skagitcounty.net/ferry](http://www.skagitcounty.net/ferry). Look under the "schedules and fares" tab and scroll to the bottom of that screen. There have been no changes this year to the non-peak sailing schedule and fare structure. As a reminder, last run will be at 8:00 p.m. on Sundays beginning October 6, 2013.

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