



Ferry Matters

Guemes Island Ferry

A Skagit County Public Works Publication

Winter 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 15th of every other month. "Ferry Matters" will be distributed via the list serve; to sign up please email me at rrowe@co.skagit.wa.us. Copies will also be available at the Anacortes ferry terminal.

-Captain Rowe



Ferry Manager's Corner

Thanks everyone for another great year at Skagit County and at the Guemes Island Ferry. It certainly takes teamwork to run the ferry and I couldn't do it without everyone's support - from the amazing ferry crew to the talented folks at Continental to the Ferry Committee and all of the Islanders. I truly enjoy working with all of you and I am already looking forward to next year!



Guemes Island Ferry crew wishes everyone safe and happy holidays!

Did you know...

The following sessions will be held in the Board of Skagit County Commissioners Hearing Room at 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. The public is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Skagit County Public Works will present the 14-Year Ferry Capital Improvement Plan to the Commissioners on December 10, 2013, at 10:00 a.m.

The Ferry Operations Division will present the Draft 2013 Ferry Operations Status Report to the Commissioners on December 17, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.

The Commissioners will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, November 26, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. for the purpose of considering the adoption of the proposed comprehensive 2014-2019 Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program.

For more information, please contact Rachel Rowe, Ferry Division Manager, at (360) 419-7618.

Impacts to Ridership

As we approach the winter season, we'd like to remind everyone that the docks, ramps, and walkways can get slick during icy conditions. Please be especially careful in the mornings and evenings, watch your step, and always follow the directions of the crew. Over the next few months we could also experience stronger winds and rougher conditions in the channel. Although weather-related shut downs are rare, they do occur. We are currently using our e-mail list serve to communicate important service announcements. When possible, we also post notices on our website at www.skagitcounty.net and at www.linetime.org. For more information, please call the ferry office at (360) 293-6433.

Dolphin Project Update: 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. Skagit County has 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. In the last edition of this newsletter, we reported that the fish window, or in-water work window, will occur between January 15 and April 15, 2014. Since publication of the fall 2013 newsletter, Skagit County has secured two different timelines for the in-water work to be performed. The first permitted in-water work window is January 1, 2014 through March 15, 2014. The second permitted work window is July 15 through October 1, 2014. Construction could occur during either fish window. The project is currently out for bid and a bid opening has been scheduled for November 18, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. Once Skagit County has secured a contract, the timeline for construction can be finalized. Impacts to ridership during construction should be minimal. For more information, please contact Jennifer Swanson in Public Works at (360) 336-9400.



Upcoming Holiday Sailing Schedules:

Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 27, Regular Sailing Schedule, 6:30am to 8:30pm

Thursday, November 28, HOLIDAY SAILING SCHEDULE (Sat. sailing schedule with service ending at 10:00pm), 6:30am to 10:00pm

Friday, November 29, Regular Sailing Schedule, 6:30am to 11:00pm

Christmas

Monday, December 23, Regular Sailing Schedule, 6:30am to 8:30pm

Tuesday, December 24, Regular Sailing Schedule, 6:30am to 8:30pm

Wednesday, December 25, HOLIDAY SAILING SCHEDULE (Sat. sailing schedule with service ending at 10:00pm), 6:30am to 10:00pm.

Thursday, December 26, 2013, Regular Sailing Schedule, 6:30am to 8:30pm

New Year's

Tuesday, December 31, Regular Sailing Schedule, 6:30am to 8:30pm

Wednesday, January 1, 2014, HOLIDAY SAILING SCHEDULE (Sat. sailing schedule with service ending at 10:00pm), 6:30am to 10:00pm

Thursday, January 2, 2014, Regular Sailing Schedule, 6:30am to 8:30pm

Please note that County offices will be closed Nov. 28 and 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday, Dec. 24 for a mandatory furlough day, and Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Guemes Island Ferry
Ferry Manager, Rachel Rowe
Dock: 500 I Ave, Anacortes
Mail: 1800 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Phone: (360) 336 - 9400
FAX: (360) 336 - 9369
email: pw@co.skagit.wa.us

