



FERRY NEWSLETTER

July 25, 2008

M/V Christine Anderson

To

Share Weekend Runs with the M/V Rhododendron

What a week.

Again – my apologies for the schedule disruptions during the earlier part of the week.

When Washington State Ferries (WSF) asked for the use of the Christine Anderson in order to conduct sea trials from July 22nd through July 29th, 2008 it appeared to be a win – win request. Generally, as a community we had a good experience with the Rhododendron several weeks prior and I was pleased that WSF was preparing for major upgrades to the vessel prior to its late September scheduled dry docking. As we are all too aware, low tides, heavy loads, unanticipated medical diversions and stalled vehicles requiring tow off of the vessel led to the “perfect storm” of schedule delays.

This weekend I am bringing the Christine Anderson back from the WSF maintenance yard to “double up” on service to Steilacoom, Anderson and Ketrion Islands. The M/V Christine Anderson will meet what we have come to know as the Temporary Sailing Schedule that will be in effect until the last run on July 29, 2008. The M/V Rhododendron will supply back up (trailing a few minutes behind) from approximately 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday so as to insure that we are not leaving anyone behind and you can plan on timely, reliable service for your weekend activities.

Unfortunately, as of this morning I have not been able to make back up arrangements for Monday and Tuesday, July 28th and 29th 2008. Should something develop as the day progresses – I will make every effort to communicate that to you this weekend. As it stands the State would like the Christine Anderson back late Sunday to complete the last two days of sea trials in preparation for bringing the Steilacoom II back in late September.

IN SUMMARY

The M/V Christine Anderson will be returning to the Steilacoom Terminal later this evening to begin running in conjunction with the M/V Rhododendron.

The Temporary Schedule will remain in effect while the two vessels work together to service the Ketron and Anderson Island runs.

The Christine Anderson will return to Eagle Harbor in Bainbridge late Sunday, July 27, 2008 to continue the States upgrades and sea trials while the Rhododendron will continue to service Ketron and Anderson Islands.

The Christine Anderson will return to Steilacoom the evening of July 29, 2008. Ferry runs will return to normal schedule with the 5:45 a.m. run departing Steilacoom on Wednesday, July 30, 2008.

SIDE NOTES

I have spoken with several of you regarding the medical emergency which occurred during the evening commute on July 22nd 2008. As most of you know, this resulted in approximately a 1.5 hour delay on the run during a peak period. There was a lot of understandable frustration that may have been misdirected. Somehow there was a perception that this delay was precipitated by a lack of a proper response from Anderson Island Fire and Rescue. I want to assure you that this delay was an emergency condition occurring on Ketron Island shortly after the vessel left the Island bound for Anderson Island necessitating an immediate return to Ketron and a return to Steilacoom instead of proceeding on its normal course to Anderson Island. Anderson Island Fire and Rescue was neither notified nor involved in this incident.

On Tuesday July 29, 2008, Proposal No. R2008-119, A resolution of the Pierce County Council proclaiming its gratitude to Hornblower Marine Services crew members for helping save two lives aboard a Pierce County Ferry over a five day period will be presented by County Council at the Environmental Services Building at 3:00 p.m. Once again, an opportunity to thank Hornblower Marine for their continued professionalism in the operation of our ferry system. Unfortunately, several of the crew members involved these actions will not be present as they are being dispatched to WSF shipyard to retrieve our M/V Christine Anderson that evening

Thank you for your continued patience as we continue to work with WSF and our neighboring communities to provide some level of service throughout the region. I hope your weekend is a pleasant one.

Michael D. Esher
Airport/Ferry Administrator