

Welcome To The Highline Times**Updated As Warranted**

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Sea serpent slithers into Des Moines Marina

By Earline Byers

"It's the darndest lookin' critter--one of a kind--and it makes me smile," a spectator observed. Heaven knows we need more happy things to smile about these days.

The 20-plus-foot-long sea serpent sculpture made an unexpected debut Oct. 5th at Des Moines Marina. It established residence at Classic Yachts Sales marina office.

Can a sea serpent and foot ferry share fame within friendly waters? Time will tell; yet for now the critter has a head start. Read on.

Local artist Donovan Crosby created this prototype sea serpent and he is the perfect guy for fun. He's inspired by the Seafair Pirates' fun-filled antics and funnyboat races.

At the sea serpent launch, the enthusiasm of folks wasn't dampened, even with pouring rain and gusty winds.

Arlene Knight and hubby Stan Wilkes, owners of Classic Yachts, pulled this event together. It was Arlene's idea to build and display the sea serpent. Stan inspired participation and financial support while Donovan donated his gift of artistry, labor and community caring.

Human instinct seeks a reason to smile with enthusiasm in worrisome days.

U of W architectural graduate Jack Deblauw suggested the sea serpent sculpture to city council members July 17 after the Storefront Study.

Councilmember Carmen Scott responded, "Some of these ideas can be carried out with very little costs. We just need to get someone to own them."

Arlene and Stan own this one. Now you can see this colorful critter anytime you visit the marina.

People have been seen smiling a lot and taking pictures of each other with a sea serpent.

"Taking ownership" seems inevitable, yet the sea serpent needs a name. Join in the fun! Contest forms are available at Classic Yachts marina office or by calling 206 824-1200.

Another addition to the marina could be a King County foot ferry between Des Moines and Seattle. How'd you like a ferry ride rather than I-5?

As written in the King County Ferry District (KCFD) flier, "In April 2007 a new county-wide ferry district was formed in King County to expand transportation options for county residents through passenger ferry services. By expanding transportation choices to include passenger ferries KCFD can prepare for continued population growth and address quality of life issues related to managing traffic congestion and its impact on environment. Passenger ferries also promote economic development, provide tourism opportunities and connect communities."

The five trial demonstration communities slated for passenger ferry service are Des Moines, Ballard, Kenmore, Kirkland and Renton.

An informational meeting was held Sept. 12th between Des Moines community leaders and county council chairwoman Julia Patterson, King County Ferry District Executive Director Kristine Lund and Krisitin Faucett of Cocker Fennessy Corp.

The purpose was to gauge support, need and opportunity to initiate Des Moines foot ferry service. Local history is rich in stories and pictures of Mosquito Fleet passenger boats service, once the lifeline to this town.

Passenger ferry service between West Seattle and downtown Seattle exists. Beginning in July, KCFD will assume operation of the

Vashon passenger ferry.

Potential routes across Lake Washington and Puget Sound are being explored. The first demonstration route is scheduled to begin this summer , followed each year by an additional new route with a two-year demonstration period followed by a third year transition to permanent service if the service is successful.

KCFD will determine the routes and implementation from five planned potential demonstration routes to and from Seattle. Typical passenger fares are \$3 one-way and \$8.70 round-trip. Free shuttle service will connect to land transit or final destinations.

Issues of available parking space for ferry passenger cars and support of city staff and security services as well as city street maintenance impact must be considered as well. If no city financial gain is realized to compensate costs, that raises concern about the burden to property taxpayers. Here's a chance to use the product before buying the store.

Riding a ferry, compared to continuing stress of I-5 traffic is appealing, especially in today's world crisis, politically motivated hateful accusations and unrest. We must slow down, count our blessings and make time to enjoy the beauty of life and nature. A refreshing boat ride might just help get us there.

More information at website: www.kingcountyferries.org or from Councilwoman Patterson at 206- 296-1050

Today's Thought: "The deepest principle of human nature is the craving to be appreciated." (William James)

[-- CLOSE WINDOW--](#)