

~ THE MILEPOST ~

A newsletter for the STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA
HWY

October 2006 Vol. 10

Fall Newsletter for the SR 112 Community

On the Strait and Narrow ...

Bill Riley, WSDOT Maintenance Operations Superintendent for the Olympic Region, reports that the work done on Highway 112 this past summer was done to prepare for the chip seal project in 2007. If you are wondering about the bright orange fencing along the roadway, it is simply to delineate an environmentally sensitive area for the contractors to use as a guide in their work areas.

The **Hood Canal Bridge** closure mitigation plan is moving forward for the six week closure in May-June of 2009. See details on the mitigation plan, construction progress, project timelines, quarterly reports and contact information at www.hoodcanalbridge.com.

Check www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic for weather or road conditions on state highways. For questions or comments on WSDOT projects, contact Lisa Murdock, Communications Manager, Olympic Region at 360.357.2789 or at her office email: murdocl@wsdot.wa.gov.

The Washington State Patrol has had a busy summer and hopes that drivers will work hard to drive defensively as we enter the fall and winter seasons. Troopers have responded to a record number of fatality collisions involving motorcycles. 39% of these were single vehicle collisions. 75% were caused by the motorcycle ... speeding, DUI, inattention, improper braking technique. Alcohol/drugs were present with 13 of the deceased operators, with another 14 cases pending toxicology reports. 40% of this year's motorcycle fatalities involved an unendorsed rider. WSP wants to remind all motorcycle operators to get the proper endorsement and take advanced motorcycle training classes.

As for the winter time, the rule of thumb is to increase following distance to allow for greater stopping distance on slick and wet road surfaces. Now is the time to check your tires and make sure you have adequate tread depth, 3/32" is the law but replacement is recommended before tires are worn that low. The hot summer has probably taken its toll on windshield wipers and, with the rain we get along SR112, it is best to replace them now.

Trooper Brian George, Office Phone 360.405.6633

Washington State Patrol, District Eight Public Information Officer

"While driving, you need to be driving."

What's Happening? ...

Fall is a great time to visit **Salt Creek Park** and see all the improvements ... picnic shelter, play equipment, water/electric hookups, hiking trails, concrete stairway to the beach lot, vault toilet at beach parking lot ... lots of space, few people, crisp autumn air!

A **Joyce community neighborhood watch program** is being coordinated by the Clallam County Sheriff Department. In an informal poll by the Crescent Community Advisory Council last summer, residents ranked drugs and vandalism as top concerns. Get involved! Contact sheriff department coordinator, Al Camin, at 360.417.2376.

Neah Bay is enjoying 1.2 miles of newly paved road and new sidewalks on Bayview Avenue in the downtown area ... and what a beautiful water view it is from downtown.

The **Crescent Community Advisory Council and Crescent Grange** are sponsoring a speaker meeting on November 15th at the Crescent Grange, potluck at 6:30 p.m. The speaker program will begin at 7:00 p.m. with Charlie Cortelyou on "abuse of DNR lands/cost to the public" and Rich James on "the Olympic Discovery Trail". Plan to attend.

A **Safe Routes to School** grant has allowed construction to begin on a sidewalk from Crescent School to the Clallam Transit stop at Joyce General Store. The project will include a crosswalk across Highway 112 near the Joyce Café.

55-Alive Safe Driving Course is offered November 8th/9th in classroom and video presentation to review driving skills. Everyone can use a periodic tune-up. The fee is \$10.00. To reserve a space, call John or Lelah Singhose, 360.457.5944

Highway Cleanup in the Joyce area is the last weekend of October. This is a joint Crescent Grange, Crescent School, Crescent Bay Lions Club, and community endeavor.

Welcome to the Highway ...

By the Bay Café has opened in Sekiu in the old Cain's Marina building. Owners Bob and Tanja Cain hope to be able to keep the restaurant open during the winter ... hours Mon through Thurs 11 am to 8 pm, Fri 11 am to 9 pm, Sat 8 am to 9 pm, Sun 8 am to 8 pm ... so stop by for a meal and check it out. Call 360.963.2998 for information.

Clallambroadband.com has a free wireless "hot spot" at Family Kitchen in Joyce.

The "Association"

News from the Juan de Fuca Scenic Byway Association

The Association is a non-profit corporation made up of citizen volunteers with the purpose of sharing and promoting awareness of the history, culture and recreational opportunities along Hwy 112. Memberships to the Hwy 112 community are at no charge, just fill out an application form. Other levels of membership with financial support are also available with advertising discount benefits. All members are eligible to be on the Board of Directors by election. Contact any Board member for membership information and forms or request an application by emailing sandrabalch@olympen.com. Join us ... we have fun while we work!

Thank You for a Successful Raffle

The Association would like to thank the donors and participants for making the summer festival raffle a success. Funds raised will be used for the upcoming Hwy 112 business directory and for general administrative expenses. The five winners were Gerry Smith, Loretta Chapman, Lisa Shoppe, Patty Stutz, and Debi Stevenson. Congratulations!

Upcoming Meeting Dates

The Association Board of Directors will meet on October 23rd at the Joyce Café (general business meeting) and on November 27th at the Pysht Tree Farm Lodge (general business and nominations for Board positions). Both meetings begin at 5:00 p.m.

Juan de Fuca Scenic Byway Association Board of Directors ...

Board members and officers for 2006 are as follows: Joe Murray (Pres.), Alex Stevens (Vice-Pres.), Bill Drath (Treas.), Sande Balch (Secy.), Margaret Owens, Loren Kreutner, Bobbi Fuller, and Greig Arnold.

We welcome your participation in the Juan de Fuca Scenic Byway Association or projects that may be developed from community input. Please contact Sande Balch at 360.457.1424

or email at sandrabalch@olympen.com if you would like to volunteer, need some information, or have questions or concerns.

This newsletter made possible by a National Scenic Byways Seed Grant. Artwork by Margaret Owens.

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A newsletter for the STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA HWY

February 2006 Vol. 8

Winter Newsletter for SR112 Community

On the Strait and Narrow ...

Happy New Year and welcome to an already eventful 2006 storm watch. A big thank you to the WSDOT, County Road, and PUD workers who got us through the winter weather and storms and continue to work on stabilizing roads and utilities for our safety. And a thank you also to those who deliver papers, mail and goods under stressful conditions on the road. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by your community.

For updates on the Hood Canal Bridge project go to www.hoodcanalbridge.com which will take you to the WSDOT project web site. Check www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic for weather or road conditions on state highways. For questions or comments on WSDOT projects, contact Lloyd Brown, Communications Manager, at 360.357.2789 or at his office email: brownl@wsdot.wa.gov.

Local law enforcement and emergency service personnel are also on alert during times of high storm and winter weather concerns. This message is from the Washington State Patrol office, Trooper Brian George ...

“Troopers assigned to the North Olympic Peninsula work hard to keep drivers safe as they travel along the highways. In 2005 troopers investigated 80 collisions along SR112. With help from the community, troopers would like to see this number go down in 2006. Drivers can keep themselves and their neighbors safe by driving attentively and defensively. Here are a few ways you can drive defensively:

The number one way to keep yourself and your passengers safe: BUCKLE UP!
Increase following distance to account for increased stopping distance required in inclement weather (even rain).

Follow posted speed limits and slow down when hazards such as heavy rain or congested traffic are present.

Remember ~ when entering or crossing the highway, main line traffic always has the right of way.

Following is a look at the Washington State Patrol activity along the 61 mile stretch of SR112 in 2005:

DUI arrests: 17 ~~ Speed contacts: 782 (does not mean all were cited, approx. 50% of drivers stopped for speed are cited) ~~ DUI collisions: 8 ~~ Speed collisions: 35 ~~ Non-reportable collisions: 19 (the collision was non-injury and damage was under \$750) ~~ Property damage only collisions: 36 ~~ Injury collisions: 24 ~~ Fatalities: 1
Total collisions: 80”

Trooper Brian George

Washington State Patrol, District Eight Public Information Officer
Office Phone (360) 405-6633

“While driving, you need to be driving.”

Whale Tales and Flock Talk ...

Have you happened to catch “Bird Note” on national public radio (in the Port Angeles/Victoria area KVIX at 89.3 on the FM dial) ... a radio show about the intriguing ways of birds? This mini-show comes on at 8:58 a.m. weekdays and is produced by the Seattle Audubon Society. For past bird notes check out the web at www.birdnote.org.

What’s In Bloom? ...

Lady bugs have already arrived ... you either love them or are driven to distraction by their invasion into your home. Try to bundle the little red bugs into a container and release them outside to help eliminate garden pests.

The color show begins ... watch for swatches of pink alder buds on the verdant hills.

Welcome to the Highway ...

Welcome, Craig and Sara Atwood. Jake and Shauna Peters, all from Forks, as they begin their second season at **Snow Creek Resort** at the west end of SR112. The resort is open seasonally from May 1st to the end of September. Tent and RV sites, cabins, showers, boat launch, store, tackle, bait, and fishing licenses are available. Call 1-800-883-1464 or visit Snow Creek on the web at www.snowcreekwa.com.

The “Association”

News from the Juan de Fuca Scenic Byway Association

The Association is a non-profit corporation made up of citizen volunteers who will work with the local community to address safety concerns and to provide educational materials and interpretive opportunities about the history, culture and recreation of the area ... for the traveler as well as the local residents and businesses. In “telling the story” of the natural, scenic, recreational, cultural, archeological, and historical qualities of highway 112, the whole community can learn about itself and have fun working together. Join us!

Public Information Meeting Coming Up ...

There will be an open house on February 27th from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. prior to the Board of Directors meeting. The meeting will be held at the Crescent School library in Joyce and will allow the community to become familiar with the work of the Juan de Fuca Scenic Byway Association and ask questions or voice concerns. All SR112 community residents and businesses are welcome. Come learn what it is all about!

Juan de Fuca Scenic Byway Association Board of Directors ...

The addition of new board members and election of officers for the Association happens at the January meeting. Directors serve a three-year term and officers are elected each new year. Board members and officers for 2006 are as follows:

Joe Murray (Pres.), Alex Stevens (Vice-Pres.), Bill Drath (Treas.), Sande Balch (Secry.), Margaret Owens, Loren Kreutner, Bobbi Fuller-Shields, Greig Arnold, Mark Mouzakis.

We welcome your participation in the Juan de Fuca Scenic Byway Association or projects that may be developed from community input. Please contact Sande Balch at 360.457.1424 or email at sandrabalch@olympen.com if you would like to volunteer, need some information, or have questions or concerns.

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June 2006 Vol. 9

Spring/Summer Newsletter for the SR112 Community

On the Strait and Narrow ...

Bill Riley, WSDOT Maintenance Operations Superintendent for the Olympic Region, reports that the work to be done at Bear Creek on SR112 will require detour/flagging, but no closures. The Pysht River Fish Barrier Removal Project, however, will close SR112 for three days, July 19th through 21st. Further project and contact information is posted on the web at www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR112/PyshtCulvertRemoval/

The construction of the Hood Canal Bridge pontoons began in March. For bridge progress visuals, click on "Construction Progress" at www.hoodcanalbridge.com.

Quarterly reports are also available from this site.

Check www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic for weather or road conditions on state highways. For questions or comments on WSDOT projects, contact Lloyd Brown, Communications Manager, at 360.357.2789 or at his office email: brownl@wsdot.wa.gov.

Clallam County destinations are popular tourist areas and are heavily traveled. Travelers should expect traffic delays on many of the two lane highways and at the ferry terminals and should plan accordingly. Patience and courtesy are essential for safe travel as residents share the road with rv's and vehicles towing boats. Don't forget to secure your loads and double check your tow connections and lights.

Troopers will be out in force working hard to accomplish our traffic safety mission. We hope that motorists will exercise the necessary patience and care to keep this summer safe for everyone. In addition to enforcement, troopers will be assisting disabled motorists and make every attempt to keep the roadways open to vehicle traffic.

Trooper Brian George, Office Phone (360) 405-6633

Washington State Patrol, District Eight Public Information Officer

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What's Happening? ...

It's local festival time ... get ready for parades, great food, and lots of neighborly fun. Clallam Bay-Sekiun Fun Days July 7-9th ~ Joyce Daze August 5th ~ Clallam County Fair at the Port Angeles fairgrounds August 17-20th ~ Makah Days in Neah Bay ~ August 25-27th. And there is a Chili Cook-Off scheduled in Joyce on Saturday, July 15th.

Fire season is upon us soon ... drier weather, winds, debris burning, campfires, fireworks all add to fire risk. For tips on how to lessen the risk of wildfire to your community, home and family go to the web at www.firewise.org.

So much is happening at Salt Creek Recreational Area, you may just have to visit to believe it! Thirty-eight RV spaces are now paved and with water. All picnic tables and grills, the playground, and the vault toilets (late Aug.) are to be replaced. A basketball court and information kiosks are to be added. Overhead power lines are to be removed. A new trail has been built from the beach to the bunkers. The Striped Peak trail access will be paved for parking and horse trailers. A recreation paradise right in our own backyard.

Welcome to the Highway ...

Chuck and Shelley Fuchser of Joyce recently established "C&S PRUNING and ORCHARD CARE." They will offer complete pruning and spraying services for all sizes and types of fruit trees in Northwest Washington. You are invited to request a free quote by calling (360) 928-3013.

Following Memorial Day weekend, Joyce Depot Museum hours are Thursday through Monday (closed Tues/Wed) from 10 am to 4 pm. Lots of interesting history here!

The Joyce Fitness Center has new hours/days. The fitness center is open M-W-F from 8 am. to 4pm for ladies only and M-W-F from 4 pm to 8 pm for coed fitness training.

What's In Bloom? ...

Enjoy the purple swatches of foxglove and fireweed which punctuate the forest mosaic across the landscape.

Congratulations are due ...

Thank you Crescent Grange, Crescent School and Crescent Bay Lions Club ... and all participating community members ... for cleaning up 15 miles of our scenic byway roadside from Whiskey Creek east to the Elwha Bridge. This takes place three times a year ... the last weekend in April, July, October. Join in for the next clean-up.

Here's the challenge ... Will other communities and neighbors take up the challenge until all 61 miles of SR112 are being picked up on a regular basis?

Clallam Bay-Sekiue have taken on a revitalization process for this once-thriving community with visioning, project goals, needs prioritization on the meeting agendas. A new flag was raised in Clallam Bay as a beautification project which continued into a Clallam Bay clean-up day. Congratulations to the community on this effort.

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