

HOW MANY MINIS FIT ON THE FERRY?



Tim Wittman, organizer of the event, leads the caravan to Anderson's Store and then on a tour of the island.

Do you lie awake nights wondering how many Minis fit on the ferry? Wonder no more. The Guemes Ferry normally carries 19 cars—on a good day with few trucks and SUVs, maybe 21. On Saturday May 8, 2004, 29 Mini Coopers all rode across on the same run.

A car cuts in front of another in the ferry line waiting to go to Guemes. An islander in the car behind the line jumper turns to another and says, “Well, that’s just rude. I’m going to go tell that jerk to go to the back of the line.” He gets out of his car and goes up to the driver of the line jumper and speaks with him for some time and then returns to his car. His friend waits a few minutes, turns and asks, “That jumper hasn’t gone to the back of the line. Didn’t you speak to them about it?” His friend replies, “They’re going to Orcas.”

MAKING THE CROSSING

1954 65-YEAR-OLD WOMAN SWIMS TO ANACORTES. Mrs. Marge Thompson of South Beach makes the trip on a driftwood log every summer for years.

1957 ELDERLY SOUTH SHORE COUPLE END FERRY JOURNEY EARLY. Accidentally accelerating off the old ferry *Guemes* before reaching the dock. The eighty-year-olds meet bystanders' waves and shouts of alarm with hellos and goodbyes.

1960 VANDALS FAIL LATE NIGHT EXIT OF GUEMES. A developer's D-9 Caterpillar tractor was launched from the bluff at Casperson's Point.

1972 BRIDE GROOM CHALLENGES GUEMES CHANNEL. At midnight before his wedding day, Ted Harper vowed to make the swim to town, saying, "If I make it, I was meant to marry this woman." He marries her.

1975 FERRY RIDER CAN'T WAIT TO GET HOME. In view of skipper Ray Separovitch, Banjo Eddie dives from the bow of the ferry *Almar*. He survives the swim to shore.

1979 NORTH BEACH SISTERS TAKE THE PLUNGE. Jenny and Sally Stapp swim out to Jack Island. They came back.

1981 ISLAND LAD FINDS BODY. Dan McCracken discovers unfortunate from town washed up at Deadman's Cove. As Bud Hanson always said, "The best beach combing spot in the San Juans."



The Island Walks To Town
- Kit Marcinko

Kit Marcinko, 2004

GUEMES FERRY LOSES PROPELLOR

According to Steve Cox, ferry manager, the ferry made a hard landing on the Guemes Island side during the 8:30 run Saturday evening with loose control of the No. 1 engine and limped back to Anacortes on its remaining engine. Divers inspected the boat and discovered the propellor was missing from the No. 1 shaft. The ferry will go into dry dock at Dakota Creek. The county has a spare propellor but they must be laboriously fitted. The ferry could be out of service for several days.

LOST PROPELLOR RECOVERED

On Monday, August 23, divers located the propellor which had fallen off the ferry Saturday evening, August 14. They floated the more than 800 lb., 52 inch propellor from just outside the outlying dolphin on the Guemes side closer to shore where a county road crew raised it with a crane.

September 2004



Crew members were puzzled to find an abandoned Beetle on board after offloading on the Guemes side one day last month. But the keys were in the ignition of the red Volkswagen so Holly Bowman drove it off and Gary Casperson placed a call to the Nicolls residence to remind Gail that she might have forgotten something. Of course Gail had gotten into Nick's car to chat during the crossing and., well, you know the rest. Everyone who hears the story laughs then thinks for a moment and comments something like, "That could have been me."