

Ship Report Transcript

Tuesday, June 4, 2024

By Joanne Rideout

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It's time for the Ship Report the show about all things maritime. I'm Joanne Rideout. It's Tuesday, June 4th, 2024.

So today I'd like to start out with an update on the status of the Rose Festival fleet, which, in case you haven't been following, this is the fleet of U.S. and Canadian military vessels that head to Portland for the annual rose Festival, and they come up the Columbia River right past Astoria. The festival is happening in Portland right now and will continue through this Sunday, June 9th.

The Rose Festival fleet ships arrive in the river and head up there in time for this Wednesday, at the dock at Tom McCall Waterfront Park on the Willamette River, where at least some of them will be open for public tours June 6th through 9th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tours are free and you can just show up and get in line.

And while some of the ships that will be along the seawall there in Portland for the Rose Festival are local ships that will join the fleet from the local area, others come from elsewhere and pass by Astoria in the process, sometimes stopping here.

We're really lucky this year and that it looks like all of the arriving Rose Festival fleet ships passing Astoria will stop here this year. We already have two at the Port of Astoria, the USS Augusta and the USS Montgomery. They are both U.S. Navy littoral combat vessels and they are open for public tours.

You can go down there today for a tour between 9:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. And there were public tours yesterday, also tours are free. You just get in line you can take a tour of either or both of those two U.S. Navy ships.

And we have two other arriving Rose Festival fleet ships coming in today and they also will stop here in Astoria, in this case at the 17th Street dock by the Columbia River Maritime Museum. And they are two Canadian Navy military ships arriving from Vancouver, British Columbia. They are the HMCS Edmonton and the H.M.C.S. Yellowknife.

Both of these vessels are called coastal defense vessels, and this time they'll be stopping here overnight. And so you can go down there and see them as well by the Maritime Museum. So a neat opportunity to see some unusual ships up close. Nice of them to stop by here on the way, so we can have a peek at them.

Now, generally what happens is that on Wednesday, the Rose Festival fleet that's entering the river heads up to Portland and then on the following Monday, so this coming Monday, they all head down river again.

So I'll be talking about that with you on Monday because you can see them all heading downriver. It's a great opportunity to see those ships up close here while they are in Astoria. And usually when they leave to go upriver, they're leaving sometime in the morning.

And so a bit about when you can see those vessels leaving Astoria on Wednesday morning, The USS Augusta will be heading out of the Port of Astoria at about 8 a.m.. The H.M.C.S. Edmonton, the Canadian vessel, will be leaving around 830 from near the dock near the Maritime Museum, the HMCS Yellowknife. The other Canadian Navy vessel will be heading upriver about 845 from the 17th Street Dock.

And the USS Montgomery, she's our other U.S. Navy ship, will be heading upriver to Portland, leaving the Port of Astoria around 10 a.m..

o that gives you an idea of when you might be able to see these vessels moving on the river, heading upriver to Portland. I will also post all of this information on a post on the Ship Report Facebook page, so you'll be able to look for it there. And for people who might want to look at these ships who are not in Astoria, if you're in Longview or anywhere else up on the river between Astoria and Portland, you can usually track these ships on AIS using vesselfinder.com or marinetraffic.com.

But sometimes these ships, military ships, don't have their AIS on. So just as a rule of thumb takes about three and a half hours for a ship to get from Astoria to Longview, about 5 hours to Kalama and about 6 hours to Portland, about 8 hours to the seawall in Portland where these ships are going.

So that gives you a little bit of a frame of reference if you're just trying to find a way to see some of them going by and they don't happen to show up on AIS.

Let's take a look at what else is going on this morning. Well, Marine weather's always going on, especially lately. Even though a lot of folks are kind of tired of the rain by now, I've been gathering that, I've been hearing that... we do live in the Pacific Northwest, much of which is actually classified as a rain forest. So we can't be too surprised at a little bit of rain. And we're not done with this round of rain yet.

A weather front is moving across our waters through early today. High pressure will build over our area by midweek for more settled weather. And from what I can tell in the forecast, we actually have sunshine in our forecast. So let's keep our fingers crossed for some actual spring summer weather here. After all this cool and rainy weather we've been dealing with.

We have a gale warning in effect through this morning. Southwest winds 20 to 25 knots, gusting to 30 knots today, easing to 10 to 15 in the afternoon. Seas 7 to 10 feet. Wave details: Southwest six feet at 8 seconds apart and west, nine feet at 10 seconds. And rain in the morning and then a chance of showers in the afternoon.

And to look at our ship schedule for the day we have, other than the Rose Festival fleet ships, which I just talked about, we have the Mystras arriving from South Korea, headed to the Astoria Anchorage. She'll be heading upriver to pick up, I think, wheat eventually, arriving in the Astoria Anchorage at 3:30 a.m. or around that time. The DL lavender is arriving from South America, headed to our Astoria Anchorage. Also, she'll be picking up scrap metal eventually upriver.

That's kind of an interesting cargo. It usually comes to us here or some of it at least comes down to us by tug and barge from up in the Puget Sound area, and that is often crushed cars. And so the scrap metal is sent to Asia to be made into steel. So we'll see her the DSL lavender in the Astoria Anchorage at about 6:30 a.m.. And then we have the MSC Illinois VII arriving from Vancouver, British Columbia, headed for Portland, she's a container ship passing Astoria around 10 a.m.. She'll be in Portland by

about 4 p.m.. So at about 1 p.m. we should see the HMCS Edmonton and the HMCS Yellowknife arriving in Astoria at the 17th Street dock by the Maritime Museum. So look for those two ships in the early afternoon there. Then we have the Andromeda Leader arriving from Japan, headed for Portland. Brand new Toyotas. She'll be passing Astoria around 2:30 p.m. and be in Portland by about 8:30 p.m..

And the African Kite is arriving from South Korea, headed for the Astoria Anchorage. She'll be picking up wheat upriver. She'll be in Astoria's Anchorage by about 2:30 p.m.. In our outbounders, we have a container ship called East Shanghai, leaving Portland around 1 a.m. passing Astoria outbound around 7 a.m.. The Star Subaru is leaving Kalama carrying wheat at about 6 a.m.. We could see her pass Astoria outbound around 11 a.m.. The Darya Heera is leaving Portland, potash on board. They're leaving around six and passing Astoria outbound around noon time and the Grand Winter I leaving Portland, refined petroleum. She came into deliver that, leaving around 10 a.m. passing Astoria outbound around 2 p.m. and the ATB Innovation is leaving Portland. She's an articulated tug and barge carrying petroleum leaving 1 p.m., passing Astoria outbound around 7 p.m. And the New First is leaving Longview carrying logs, leaving around 4 p.m., passing Astoria outbound around 8:30 p.m..

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