

Ship Report Transcript

Friday, May 10, 2024

By Joanne Rideout

All rights reserved. No use without permission. © 2024. Joanne Rideout/The Ship Report.

It's time for the Ship Report the show about all things maritime. I'm Joanne Rideout. It's Friday, May 10th, 2024.

Let's start out with a look at our marine weather forecast. We'll take a look at our ship schedule and then we'll talk a little more about cruise ships on the river, since we are going to have a little bit of a gap between cruises. We had one in town this week, but we're not going to see another cruise ship here - one of the big ocean going the blue water cruise ships - until the end of June. And so I'll talk about why that is.

But first, let's take a look at our marine weather forecast. Boy, it's going to be really nice. We have high pressure remaining anchored offshore in our area through the weekend. Thermal low pressure along the coast will move very little today, then shift well inland on Friday night and Saturday. So the primo warm weather days this weekend will be today. And Saturday and then things will cool down a bit. But the weather still looks to be really pleasant.

Today we have northeast winds 5 to 10 knots with gusts to 15 knots becoming north, 10 to 15, gusting to 20 in the afternoon. Wind waves from the north two feet high at 5 seconds apart and northwest swells five feet at 11 seconds apart.

And just a reminder, I've said this earlier on a ship report that was pretty much all about this. But if you do go near the water this weekend, just be very aware that the air temperature will be warm, but the water will be very cold, just as cold as it was when it was chilly a few weeks ago when you were wearing a sweater or a coat and it was raining.

The water temperature has not changed and it's still colder than you would want to be in dangerously cold to the point of hypothermia and cold water shock. So just be very careful if you're at the beach, don't put yourself in a position where you can be swept away by that water because it could be very, very dangerous situation.

Now, on to our ship schedule. We have three inbounders. The first one is a container ship. She's coming into the river this afternoon, the MSC Dardanelles. She's arriving from Vancouver, British Columbia, headed for Portland, to the Port of Portland, to the container docks there, passing Astoria around 1:30 p.m. in Portland by about 7:30 this evening. The Morning Margareta will be arriving from Japan, headed for Vancouver. She's a car carrier with brand new Subarus on board. She'll pass Astoria around 8:30 p.m. and be in Vancouver by about 2:30 in the morning on Saturday.

The Trammo Stanton is arriving from San Francisco. She's headed for the Astoria Anchorage, her ultimate destination will be the Port of Portland to pick up potash and she will arrive in Astoria's Anchorage at about 10:30 p.m..

In our outbounders, we have another container ship, the SM Kwangyang. She is leaving Portland - containers - leaving around 1 a.m. passing Astoria outbound, maybe around 7 a.m.. The Diamond Harbor is leaving Longview petcoke on board, leaving around 2 a.m. passing Astoria outbound around

5:30 a.m.. The Pacific Hero is leaving Vancouver and she came in with wind turbine parts on board to deliver them to Vancouver. She's now heading out probably with ballast water on board. So you won't see any cargo on deck leaving around noontime, passing Astoria outbound around 6 p.m.. Then we have the Neptune Island leaving Longview. I think she's going to have logs on board, leaving around 3 p.m.. She'll pass Astoria around 6:30 p.m.. The ITG Uming 2, this is a ship that seems to be coming into the river fairly often lately. Sometimes we do get bulk carriers that will show up on the schedule when they haven't been there before and they'll just be here for a while, for six months, a year, and then they will move on to another itinerary. But for the moment, she's here with us She's outbound from Longview with wheat on board, leaving around 4 p.m., passing Astoria, outbound around 7:30 p.m..

The Sandy Bay is heading out of Portland. I think her cargo was cement leaving around 6 p.m. passing Astoria outbound around midnight. The Anima is leaving Portland soda ash on board, leaving around 7 p.m., passing Astoria outbound around 1 a.m. on Saturday.

That leaves us with some ships in the Astoria Anchorage, but not too many. The CMB Bruegel is heading to Vancouver to pick up wheat, leaving around 11 p.m.. She probably will arrive in Vancouver at about 5 a.m. Friday morning. So traveling all night on the river.

And that leaves two ships in the Astoria Anchorage, the Mighty Star and the Alpha Loyalty. Both of those vessels are awaiting orders. And so our anchorage is pretty clear right now, but we could get more vessels in there over the weekend. Those vessels are awaiting the opportunity to head upriver to pick up cargo. So they're sitting high in the water. They don't have cargo on board. You see a lot of that dull red bottom paint. And when they go upriver to pick up cargoes, probably something like wheat or soda, ash or potash, they will come down river, hunkered down in the water quite a bit because they have the weight of that cargo to weigh them down in the water. And that is just what they're designed for. So that's what you want to see when you see a ship heading out to sea.

So I thought I would talk a little bit about cruise ships in Astoria, since we did have one come in this week in town, and it will be the last one that we'll see for a while until the end of June. After that, the next cruise ship will arrive in August and we will see a few in September and October. And that is generally our pattern here. Many of our cruises, not all, but many, call on the Port of Astoria in the spring and in the fall. Some cruises have been added in as part of a summer itinerary like the one coming in June. But historically, Astoria cruise ship calls are part of what are called transitional cruises or repositioning cruises in the industry. They're cruises that happen at the beginning and end of the season when blue water cruise ships, those are the ones that travel on the oceans. The big ones that come in here from out at sea. Those are moving from summer to winter grounds or vice versa. And there are those repositioning cruises.

So the ones we see in the spring are moving from winter grounds in Mexico to summer cruising territory in Puget Sound, in Alaska. And in the fall, they're moving from those areas south to Mexico again. So I sort of like to think of them as like migrating birds flying south for the winter and north in the summer.

So Astoria gets the benefit of these transitional cruises. They come into town, people get off the ships and enjoy our town and maybe spend some money. We do see some that are not in that category, but many of them are those repositioning cruises. Other cruise ships we see here in Astoria are the river cruise vessels. They are like the American cruise line ships, the ones that dock at the 17th Street Dock by the Maritime Museum. That includes the paddlewheel vessel and the river cruise ship American

Song. They go up and down the river instead of going out in the ocean. And we see some other smaller cruise ships on the river also.

So there are people visiting Astoria on two different types of cruises, the big ocean going cruises and the river cruises which go inland on the river, often even east of Portland, which is a whole different cruising experience with an emphasis on local history as well as the cruising aspect of it. So there's a lot to see on the river all the time, many different kinds of vessels. But we do see these two different types of cruise ships here on the river.

You've been listening to the ship report the show about all things maritime. I'm Joanne Rideout. You'll find ship schedules and a podcast of this program on my website at shipreport.net.

Ship Report Podcasts also on Apple and Spotify. You'll find marine weather and links to ship schedules and more on my Ship Report Facebook page. Transcripts of the show are available with podcasts.

Thanks for listening and have a great day.