



News Blogs Restaurants Calendar Music Arts Movies Columns Best of Ad Index Promotions Classifieds

Search



## MOST POPULAR

Recent	Commented	Viewed
Mexi-Burger Es No Mas		
IACP Bert Greene Awards: Our Jonathan Kauffman & PCC		
Happy Hour: Tidbit Bistro		
Thorny Times at the Rose Garden		
Madame K's stays put, Skillet Street Food moves, and Uwajimaya makes plans		

## The Water Taxi: Where Every Voyage Is a Virgin

By Mike Seely in Beer, Boozamahol

Friday, Apr. 3 2009 @ 3:05PM



This Sunday, the King County (née Elliott Bay) Water Taxi will mark its inaugural voyage of 2009 by offering passengers free rides and refreshments. Conspicuously absent from the refreshment table will be a staple — perhaps *the* staple — of the seafaring lifestyle: alcohol.

What's an Argosy cruise without booze? A subcontracted Argosy cruise that's governed by the laws of public transit, that's what. While scofflaws abound, hooch isn't permitted on Metro buses, so for the county to make an exception for its Ferry District vessels would represent something of a double standard.

But that's not the most compelling reason why the Water Taxi, which shuttles passengers to and from Alki Beach and the downtown waterfront, remains as dry as a Mormon wedding.

"The biggest problem is the water taxi crossing is so short — 12 minutes — that there's a very limited window in which they could serve something," notes Chris Arkills, chief of staff for King County Councilmember Dow Constantine, a West Seattleite who's running to replace Ron Sims as county exec. "We had several conversations with Argosy about doing this last year. The most logical choice would be to serve mini-beers, those seven-ouncers."

Arkills says that the Ferry District, which Constantine chairs, will revisit whether to serve mini-beers during a trial period "after the summer peak season," conceding that such a belated softening "doesn't help people who want booze on the boat right now."

While Washington State Ferry riders have long been able to slake their thirst with cold microbrews, the closest Water Taxi passengers have gotten to cocktail culture is a virgin concoction called the "Constantini", so named for the aforementioned councilman, who was instrumental in King County's seizure of the 12-minute run. (The Constantini consists of 7-Up, huckleberry syrup, cranberry juice, and lime.) Once the county begins leasing its own boats in 2010, when the Water Taxi switches to year-round service, Arkills says boozin' and cruisin' may become "more feasible...Dow, for one, is very open to having any revenue sources, whether it's food or beer, on the boat."

Our solution: county-issued beer bong, built for speed, just like the Water Taxi.

### Our Other Blogs

The Daily Weekly  
Reverb

### Recent entries

- Mexi-Burger Es No Mas
- IACP Bert Greene Awards: Our Jonathan Kauffman & PCC
- Happy Hour: Tidbit Bistro
- Thorny Times at the Rose Garden
- Madame K's stays put, Skillet Street Food moves, and Uwajimaya makes plans
- Boone's Farm: A Tribute To Sugary, Fizzy, Alcoholic Greatness
- The Water Taxi: Where Every Voyage Is a Virgin
- More Non-Traditional Breakfast Items Needed
- You Know You're on the Bainbridge Ferry When ...
- Soak It Up: 14 Carrot Cafe

### Browse by topic

- 13 Dollars
- Ask the Bartender
- Beer
- Blogwatch
- Books
- Boozamahol
- Bottomfeeder
- Coffee & Tea
- Continuing Education Fridays
- Cook This
- Culinary Classes
- Date Night
- Eats report
- Events
- Final Seating
- First Call
- Food Media
- Food TV
- Food Tourism
- Food in the Weekly
- Happy Hour
- I Ate This
- News
- Openings & Closings
- Out of Print
- Pigskin Pigout
- Produce
- Restaurant Gossip
- Review Roundup
- Seattle Is for Seattleites
- Shameless Plugs
- Soak It Up
- The Food Section
- Thin Wheat Line
- Valentine's Eats
- Voracious This Week
- Walk It Out
- Weekend Review
- Wieners & Losers
- Wine



### Slideshows

	Seattle People: The Faces of Emerald City ComiCon Plus Will Wheaton, Lois Lane, and Hellboy at... <a href="#">More &gt;&gt;</a>
	An Evening @ Heaven Pole dancing, body art, and cocktails, ... <a href="#">More &gt;&gt;</a>
	Photos of the Week: Beyonce, Dita Von Teese and the Central District This week, show-stoppers Beyonce and Dita Von... <a href="#">More &gt;&gt;</a>

[More Slideshows >>](#)

1 comment(s) / Comment



JesseJB says:

This is one of the most prudish major US cities. I wouldn't expect "the devils nectar" on a water taxi.

Posted On: Friday, Apr. 3 2009 @ 5:17PM

Your email address will not appear to the public.

All reader comments are subject to our [Terms of Use](#). By clicking "Post", you acknowledge that you have reviewed and agree to these Terms.

Name:

Email Address: