

DISTRICT 5 NEWS

Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg counties

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Kay Williams

Got news?

Contact Kay Williams at 843-661-4710 or by emailing her at WilliamsKH@scdot.org

South Island Ferry

Georgetown operates service to island

The South Island Ferry is the only state operated ferry remaining in South Carolina, and it's located in Georgetown County.

The ferry serves the residents of the South Island and Cat Island. The island is the home of DNR Yawkey Wildlife Research Center. The ferry is located approximately 9 miles from US Route 17 at the end of secondary 18. The ferry crosses the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. The ferry is the only access to the island other than by boat.

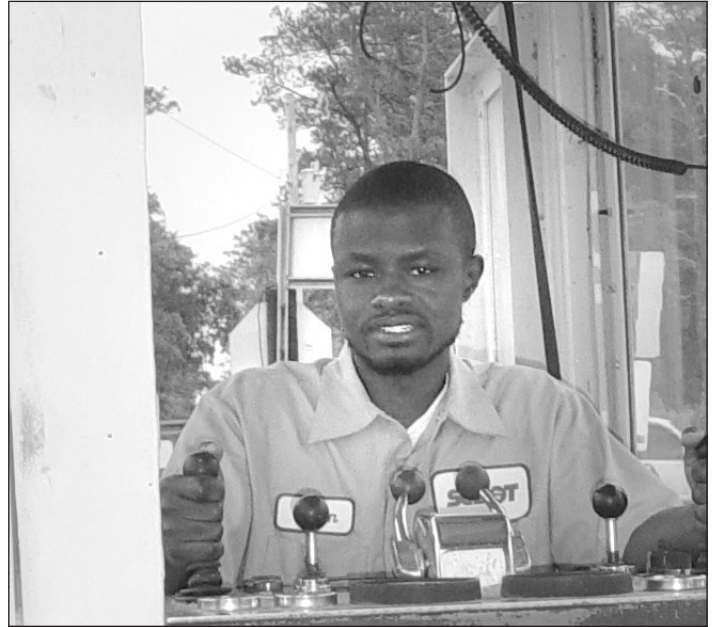
SCDOT has maintained the ferry since the 1940s. Through the years, the ferry has evolved from an operation involving a cable pulled manually by a pinch bar to a gasoline operated cable ferry to a Twin 125 horsepower diesel engine self-propelled ferry. It has been the later since 1978. The ferry has 2 landing ramps. One on the mainland side; the other on the Island side. No more than 2 vehicles can be loaded onto the ferry at a time, having a cumulative weight of 10 tons. The ferry itself is licensed

by the US Coast Guard. The ferry service is carried out by 4 licensed operators and 5 deckhands. The operators must be tested and obtain a captains license from the US Coast Guard. The ferry is operated within 2 to 8 hour shifts beginning at 7:00 am and ending at 11:00 pm. Each shift has one operator and one deck had. In the remaining hours from 11:00 pm to 7:00 am the ferry is manned by one deckhand who makes sure the ferry is not

vandalized or drifts away from the island ramp because of low and high tides. The responsibility of the operator is to operate the ferry while the deckhand is responsible as serving as an extra eye to spot boat traffic. They also signal loading and unloading vehicles and passengers onto and off the ferry. They complete safety sensitive functions such as fastening safety chains and chocking vehicle wheels.



MEET LEVON WINNS



Levon Winns is one of nine employees with our South Island Ferry. Winns came to work with the department March 17, 2002, as a Trades Specialist I working as a deckhand. He received his US Merchant Marine Officer's License on July 30, 2003. He is currently an equipment operator and has operated the ferry since May 17, 2004. Winns is very dependable and an asset to SCDOT. He enjoys spending time with his daughter and landscaping yards.

Transportation Celebration

District opens doors to the community

Open House for District 5 was very successful. We had visitors that were young and young at heart! They enjoyed the exhibits, equipment and the refreshments. Our employees even did extra by getting Sponge Bob Square Pant to show up. SCDOT had equipment on display for the visitors. The local fire department brought a fire truck for the children to enjoy. Four young ladies from Marlboro and Darlington Counties that were unable to attend the Poster Contest Banquet in Columbia came by for their medals and to have their picture taken.

