

April 3, 2025 - Why was the Nordland outage over 35 hours last month?

Although the two special radios forming the main broadband link between Bush point on Whidbey Island and Nordland on Marrowstone are only roughly 5 miles apart across the water, they are many hours apart in travel time because of requiring travel on the Washington State ferry system. By the way, remember when we had two ferries making the run between Port



Townsend and Whidbey? Now there is only one. And, if full, well...

So, after 8+ years of operation, the special radio at the Nordland side of this radio link died. We replaced it but, the link would not come back up. It turns out that the special radio on the Whidbey side had to be replaced also to form a new matched pair. A special ferry trip to Whidbey to mount and roughly aim that new radio back at Nordland.

Back in Nordland, we re-aimed the Nordland radio to get a sharp focus on the Whidbey side radio. Finally, a second trip to Whidbey to re-focus aim that radio back at Nordland. In-between those two ferry rides was lab work in prepping the firmware in each radio and making sure the link would function prior to running them out in the field to the two mounting sites. Should be good for at least another 8 years! Hope now you understand... We were not just goofing off.

Peace, David

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