



At Long Last...Home!

October 6th, 1994: Seattle, Washington

On October 6, 1994, the crew of POLAR SEA returned home to Seattle. Pier 36 was a welcome sight after eighty-plus days of steaming around the continent of North America. Family, friends, and of course the press, waited patiently for the last line to reach the pier and for the brow to open up. There was much celebration, with clowns on the pier and a brief reception for all. Many hurried home after liberty was granted.

They would have ample time to unwind and tell the tales of the two North American icebreakers that made it to the North Pole; of the unrelenting schedule of science stations; of an engineering casualty no one had anticipated; of an unplanned crossing of the Arctic Ocean and circumnavigation of the continent; of a voyage across three of the world's four oceans; and of a crew so extraordinary that they received the Canadian Coast Guard's highest honor, the U.S. Coast Guard's Unit Commendation, and countless accolades from scientists, sailors, and world leaders. Yes, there was much to tell—but all in good time. Finally, POLAR SEA was home.



(top picture): TC2 Matthew Dini and cohorts get a bird's-eye view of POLAR SEA's homecoming.

(bottom picture): Pier 36 was crowded with family, friends, and the press.