



PRESS RELEASE

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Publicity Contacts:

Wendy Brickman

Brickman@brickmanmarketing.com

831-594-1500

Sherry Flumerfelt, Executive Director

Western Flyer Foundation

sherry@westernflyer.org

(831) 220-8047

The *Western Flyer* Returns Home to Monterey Bay Save the Date for the 'Welcome Home Celebration' on Saturday, November 4th!

Monterey, CA. She's coming home at last! After being away for 75 years, the historic *Western Flyer*—the sardine fishing boat immortalized by John Steinbeck's 1951 classic *The Log from the Sea of Cortez*—will return to her home port of Monterey on Saturday, November 4th.

"The *Western Flyer* was built for Monterey's sardine fishery in 1937, and while it gained notoriety from its 1940 research trip with John Steinbeck and Ed Ricketts, it's had a long and storied past as a fishing boat," said marine geologist John Gregg, founder and board member of the Western Flyer Foundation. "Now restored with a hybrid diesel-electric engine and state-of-the-art marine lab, the *Flyer* symbolizes a bridge, linking Monterey's commercial fishing heritage with its leadership in marine science and education."

When Gregg purchased the *Western Flyer* in 2015, the neglected 77-foot fishing vessel had sunk several times and was almost beyond repair. He launched the nonprofit Western Flyer Foundation with a vision to restore the vessel for research and education and recruited the talented crew at the Port Townsend Shipwrights Cooperative to carry out the restoration. After eight years of meticulous labor, the *Flyer* received a Classic Boat Award—appropriate recognition of the immense undertaking to restore and retrofit the vessel.

The *Western Flyer* is now ready to return to Monterey Bay for its next exciting chapter, taking scientists and students on the water to observe, learn, and reflect in the spirit of John Steinbeck, Ed Ricketts, and their 1940 expedition.

The public is invited to the *Western Flyer's* "Welcome Home" celebration at the California Dock at the end of Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf on Saturday, November 4, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Join Congressman Jimmy Panetta, Supervisor Mary Adams, and other community leaders and marine experts for this special, free event featuring a boat parade, tours of the *Western Flyer*, drawing prizes, art and

info@westernflyer.org

10928 Clam Way
Moss Landing, CA 95039

www.westernflyer.org

science activities, free giveaways, and more. In fact, the entire weekend will be filled with Ricketts and Steinbeck-inspired activities. Get the latest updates at www.westernflyer.org/events.

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About the Western Flyer Foundation: With its namesake vessel restored and returning to sea, the Western Flyer Foundation's mission is to stir curiosity by connecting art and science in the spirit of John Steinbeck, Ed Ricketts, and their journey on the *Western Flyer*. The foundation's tidepooling, classroom, and onboard programs introduce students to a renowned coastal ecosystem that many have experienced only indirectly or not at all. Throughout, the Western Flyer Foundation is inspired by Steinbeck and Ricketts's combination of philosophical speculation and close scientific observation, which have inspired countless students to pursue marine science careers and instilled in many more a lasting love of the ocean. More details can be found at www.westernflyer.org.

The Western Flyer Foundation is grateful for the support of our Corporate Partners, including Moss Landing Boatworks, Chris Shake Enterprises, Poseidon Robotics, Ventana Surfboards, and InterContinental The Clement Monterey.

