

## **2010 NIAGARA WINTER SAIL TRAINING SCHEDULE AND SYLLABUS**

Classes will be held on the following Saturdays this spring: **Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 30<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>, March 13<sup>th</sup>, April 10<sup>th</sup>, April 24<sup>th</sup>**. Classes are held in the mornings and everyone is encouraged to return after lunch for maintenance. The ship's winter cover will be removed on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, barring any weather delay. Any changes to this schedule and syllabus will be posted in the crew lounge/ break room and in the gift shop. Although changes are not anticipated, if it becomes necessary, we will notify volunteers as soon as possible by email. Please be sure we have your email address so you can stay in the communication loop.

### **Sat. Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> – Orientation**

**0900 -1030: Captain's Introduction:** This will be an explanation of PHMC and the Flagship Niagara League, how they work together to run the Erie Maritime Museum and the Brig, Niagara's mission and an introduction to who those people are. There will also be a discussion of what it means to be a volunteer in Niagara, what our sailing programs consist of and how volunteers go about becoming trainees with their earned tuition dollars from maintenance. The summer voyage plans will also be discussed.

#### **1030 – 1100: Coffee Break**

**1100 – 1230: Tour of the Museum and Niagara:** Tour is guided by a professional crewmember through the museum, museum offices, restroom and shower facilities, the break room, the carpenters' workshop, the paint shop, the rig shop, aboard ship both on deck and below. A thorough description is given of all areas of the ship and museum facilities regarding volunteer operations, access to each area, policies and procedures while using each area, and daily life in these areas as a NIAGARA volunteer.

### **Sat. Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> – Class 1 0830 – 1230: Rope and Line Handling**

**0830 – 1020: Rope and Tools:** Introduction to working with rope, rope composition and construction. Display the tools of the Niagara sailor - knife, spike, fid, sailor's palm, needles, etc...

#### **1020 – 1045: Coffee Break**

**1045 – 1230: Line Handling:** Introduction to safe line handling including coiling, belaying, how to haul, how to ease, etc.. This will include setting

and taking in our full size model of the Topgallant Hamper **INSIDE** the Museum.

**Sat. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>- Class 2 0830 – 1230: Ship's Rigging and Basic Knots**

**0830 – 1020: Standing Rigging and Spars:** Learn how the skeleton of the rig is assembled, constructed and the names of all the different components. Overview of standing rigging and spars from the bottom- up. Review of Safe Line Handling. Introduction to Mechanical Advantage- handy-billys, etc...

**1020 – 1045: Coffee Break**

**1045 – 1230: Basic Knots:** Bight, Loop, Overhand with 1 bitter end, Overhand with 2 bitter ends, Figure Eight, Reef Knot, Round Turn and Two Half Hitches, Clove Hitch

**Sat. Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> - Class 3 0830 – 1230: History and Knots**

**0830 – 1020: Knot Review plus New Knots:** Review of all the knots that we went over during the last class . Adding: sheet bend, rolling hitch, midshipman's hitch, gasket coil.

**1020 – 1045: Coffee Break**

**1045 – 1230: History of the Battle of Lake Erie:** This will be lecture by Captain Walter Rybka, site administrator of the Erie Maritime Museum and senior captain of Niagara.

**Sat. Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> - Class 4 0830 – 1230: Splicing and More Knots**

**0830 – 1020: Introduction to Seizings plus More Knots:** Captain Wesley Heerssen will give a demonstration on how to do a number of different seizings. Review all the knots. Adding: Bowline, Buntline Hitch, Cow Hitch, Zeppelin Bend, Carrick Bend, Becket Bend

**1020 – 1045: Coffee Break**

**1045 – 1230: Seizing Practice:** Everyone will try their hand on their own seizings down in the Rig Shop. We will do round, one-part navy racking, two part navy racking and flat seizings.

**Sat. March 27<sup>th</sup>- COVER DAY!! PIZZA for lunch. Afternoon Field Day!**

**Sat. April 10<sup>th</sup> - Class 5 0830 – 1230: Underway Operations**

**0830 – 1020:** Intro to helm and lookout. Intro to brig checks, hammocks, galley duties. Session will include instruction and practice setting up hammocks and mess tables.

**10:20- 10:45: Coffee Break**

**10:45- 12:30: Aloft Orientation:** The ship will be partially rigged by this point. All new volunteers who are willing to go aloft will go through our aloft orientation. We will first take you up to the Fighting Top and let you get your bearings then come back down to deck. Next we will lay out onto a yard and you will be shown how to move around safely. If time allows we will go into the model for some furling practice.

**Sat. April 24<sup>th</sup> - Class 6 0830 – 1230: Underway Operations**

**0830 – 1020: Introduction to Safety Drills:** Captain Heerssen will give an description of what our drills are, why we do them and how to carry them out.

**10:20- 10:45: Coffee Break**

**10:45- 12:30: Drills:** We will conduct our safety drills. The first round of drills will be walk throughs. The second round will be in real time. All drills will be followed by a debriefing.

**Thurs. April 29<sup>th</sup> - Shakedown Sail!** Time to put all those new found skills to work.