

## **2012 NIAGARA WINTER SAIL TRAINING SCHEDULE AND SYLLABUS**

Classes will be held on the following Saturdays this winter: **Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup>, March 24<sup>th</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</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 17<sup>th</sup>. 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. 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</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. 28<sup>th</sup> – Class 1 0830 – 1230: Rope, Climbing and Line Handling**

#### **0830 – 1020: Rope, Tools and Climbing:**

This will be an introduction to working with rope, rope composition and construction. We will display the tools of the Niagara sailor - knife, spike, fid, sailor's palm, needles, etc... We will also conduct our Aloft Orientation INSIDE on our full size model of the Topgallant Hamper. Nobody is required to climb unless they are comfortable doing so.

#### **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. 11<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. Introduction to Mechanical Advantage- handy-billys, etc... There will also be a review of Safe Line Handling.

**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. 25<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, bowline and gasket coil.

**1020 – 1045: Coffee Break**

**1045 – 1230: History of the Battle of Lake Erie:**

This will be a lecture by Captain Walter Rybka, site administrator of the Erie Maritime Museum and senior captain of Niagara.

**Sat. Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> - Class 4 0830 – 1230: Seizing and Splicing**

**0830 – 1020: Introduction to Seizing:**

Captain Wesley Heerssen will give a demonstration on how to do a number of different seizings then we will practice them in the rig shop.

**1020 – 1045: Coffee Break**

**1045 – 1230: Introduction to Splicing:**

We will go through how to do an eye splice in 3-strand manila. We will also go over a short splice and possibly a long splice/grommet if we have time.

**Sat. March 17<sup>th</sup> - COVER DAY!! PIZZA for lunch. Afternoon Field Day!**

**Sat. March 24<sup>th</sup> - Class 5 0830 – 1230: History and Marlinespike Assessment**

**0830 – 1020: History of the Modern Niagara:**

Captain Walter Rybka, Site Administrator and Senior Captain, will give a lecture on how our ship came to be and what she has been doing for the past 20 years. This will include the great successes and the great setbacks that have come to define us as an organization.

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

**10:45- 12:30: Marlinespike Assessment:**

All of the work that we have been doing up to this point in the rig shop will be put to the test. We will check you off on all the knots and splices that you have learned and this will all go into your Niagara Seamanship Training Logbook.

**Sat. April 7<sup>th</sup> – Class 6 0830 – 1230: Underway Operations**

**0830 – 1020: Helm, Lookout and Galley Duty:**

Intro to helm, lookout, brig checks, hammocks, major and minor galley duties. Session will include instruction and practice on the helm as well as 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 OUTSIDE on the ship. This will be an opportunity for all those volunteers who did not get a chance to do the orientation during Class 1 to get their orientation and for those volunteers who did get their orientation to learn how to climb out on the ship. 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. Again, nobody is required to go aloft unless they are comfortable doing so.

**Sat. April 21st – Class 7 0830 – 1230: Underway Operations**

**0830 – 1020: Introduction to Safety Drills:**

Captain Heerssen will give a 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.

**Sat. May 5<sup>th</sup> - Sail!** Time to put all those new found skills to work.