

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: *Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau*

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ART: We have photos available, including aboard ship, under sail, and the US Brig Niagara passing the Jet Express ferry, one of the ship's co-sponsors in the downtown harbor.

PUT-IN-BAY (OH) -- The US Brig Niagara, a US Coast Guard certified training vessel, will be the focus of Put-in-Bay's new Maritime Celebration the third weekend in June this year.

The Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with The Perry Group—the Friends Group at Perry's Victory & International Peace Memorial—and the National Park Service, will collaborate on programs and events celebrating the islands' maritime heritage.

The Niagara is scheduled to arrive at Put-in-Bay in the afternoon on Thursday, June 18. Tours of the vessel will be given from 11am to 5pm on Friday, June 19, and from 11am to 7pm on Saturday, June 20, and Sunday, June 21. Tickets can be purchased at Fox's Dock, adjacent to the Jet Express dock, for ship tours.

The Put-in-Bay Chamber and The Perry Group will co-host a dockside reception for its members and the general public on Friday, June 19, beginning at 7pm. The Niagara's Captain and crew will talk about the Niagara, her mission and her history. Participants will enjoy appetizers and refreshments served dockside, as well as access to the Niagara for an informal tour.

Tickets for the reception are \$50 and go on sale to the general public on May 2.

The Put-in-Bay Chamber and Perry Group will also partner on a five-hour sail aboard the square-rigger on Monday, June 22. The Niagara will get underway at 3pm and return to port at 8pm.

Tickets for the sail are \$100 each and will also go on sale to the general public on April 1.

An all-access VIP Admiral Package is also being offered for 10 couples that include two tickets to the reception, a pair of tickets for the five-hour sail, dinner for two at the Crew's Nest, a bottle of wine from Put-in-Bay Winery, and a souvenir. Cost is \$500 for the two-person package.

Tickets for the reception, sailing trip and all-access VIP Admiral Package can be purchased online at the Put-in-Bay Chamber of Commerce website visitputinbay.com. Click on "Advanced Ticket Sales" on the visitputinbay.com Home Page.

Niagara's visit is co-sponsored by the Put-in-Bay Jet Express and Put-in-Bay Winery. Both the Jet Express and Put-in-Bay Winery have committed to sponsoring Niagara's visit for this year's Maritime Celebration, and again in 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2020. The ship is scheduled for maintenance and repairs in 2017.

The Put-in-Bay Chamber has also moved Pyrate Fest VII to the third weekend in June in 2015. We're looking forward to this new celebration at Put-in-Bay that pays tribute to our island home, its history and Lake Erie's heritage.