

## Learn how to receive ham radio license for free

A free course to study for an FCC Amateur Radio Technician license will be offered again this year by the Central Oregon Coast Amateur Radio Club.

Classes will begin in early February and continue once weekly for 10 weeks. A \$30 text is required and will be made available to participants.

An internet connection is desirable, but not required.

The FCC licensing exam will be conducted at the end of the course with a testing fee of \$15.

Morse Code is no longer a requirement to obtain a license.

Amateur, or ham, Radio is a personal radio service author-

ized by the Federal Communications Commission to support the advancement of the art and science of radio, to promote the development of emergency communication capabilities to assist communities in catastrophic events and to encourage international good will by connecting private citizens in countries around the globe.

Students are being accepted now.

Sign up for the course or obtain more information by contacting Bill Herbner at 541-997-0442, or by email at K7BBH@W7FLO.com.

Information about the local radio club and its activities is available at W7FLO.com.



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## Port receives major dredging budget increase

*Silt work may continue farther up Siuslaw River in 2015*

By JACK DAVIS  
Siuslaw News

The Port of Siuslaw learned Tuesday, Feb. 3, that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintenance dredging budget for fiscal year 2015 for the Siuslaw River has increased to \$894,000. This is up \$164,000 over the 2014-budgeted amount of \$730,000.

This will increase the number of days the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredger “Yaquina” will be able to dredge silt from the Siuslaw River. This will aid boat navigation and make it easier for boats crossing the river bar.

Port of Siuslaw Manager Bob Forsythe credits the lobby-

ing activities of the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association (PNWA) and the port as well as congressional support for the increase of funds.

“We stay on top of our politicians,” Forsythe said. “We go back to the District of Columbia and meet with our two senators and U.S. Rep Peter DeFazio. We have been very fortunate to meet with DeFazio every year. He always sets time aside for us.”

Forsythe will leave Feb. 27 to attend the 2015 PNWA Mission in the District from March 1 to March 5.

“We lobby for more money each year,” Forsythe said. “Every year I’ve been involved

the money has increased. PNWA has done a good job. Congress has listened.”

Determining the exact number of days the “Yaquina” will be able to spend dredging the Siuslaw River is not an exact science. Factors include where the Yaquina is coming from and weather conditions.

Forsythe estimates the \$894,000 would translate into seven or eight days dredging, possibly more.

According to maps provided by the corps, the river channel near the Siuslaw Bridge has continued to silt in over the years. The channel stays in the same place, but narrows as the silt fills in along both sides.

“We want the dredge to go as

far upriver as possible,” Forsythe said. “Ten to 15 years ago, the dredge actually made it up to the Siuslaw Bridge. I would like to see that happen again because we need to get that fixed as well.”

Forsythe said the port was pleased with the funding it has received over the past three years. He cited past years when the port had to go two and three years without any dredging being done.

“I couldn’t be happier with the corps, our representatives and the PNWA. Compared to other small ports, aside from disasters like what the tsunami did to Brookings a few years ago, we do well,” Forsythe said.

### FEC

from 1A

“Chosen caterers would then be required to contract with the FEC for that event, in which the FEC would collect a commission and/or fee for providing access to kitchen services,” said Rhodes.

“The FEC has collected an average of \$15,000 in catering commissions per year over the last three years. Assuming the number of events remain the

same, it is anticipated that we’ll collect approximately the same amount in commissions and rental fees under the new proposal,” he said.

Besides accepting proposals from caterers, the FEC also will employ a part-time concessions worker, seek volunteers to run concessions, obtain a liquor license, acquire kitchen smallware and update its health permit.

There will be some cost involved, but the Friends of the

FEC has offered to donate the funds for kitchen supplies.

Rhodes said, “It gives more flexibility, more options to our clients. That’s been some of the feedback we’ve received. ... Over the years, clients have expressed interest in having that option. Somebody could have an association with a specific caterer they use a lot, and would potentially use the FEC more often if they could use the caterer of their choice.”

“There are some exciting possibilities,” he added.

Improving the FEC facility and operations is one of the council’s drafted objectives for 2015. Other goals include delivering efficient and cost-effective service and improving city livability.

According to Rhodes, the

proposal also opens up the possibility of using the Siuslaw High School student culinary class for catering services.

In his report, Rhodes said, “Siuslaw High School instructor Kyle Lewis has expressed a strong interest in incorporating the students with the FEC catering services, creating more hands-on training opportunities.”

Councilor Joshua Greene said, “I love the idea of bringing the kids in, too. It’s a nice addition to the community. ... They’re growing food out there at the school, so now you complete the cycle. It’s good.”

According to Florence’s February newsletter, the FEC also has an updated website.

Find the FEC online at www.eventcenter.org.

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### Legion

from 1A

“I’ve heard a second package is also in the mail. I will get a legion cap, which is important within the legion. I’m honored to receive it,” Westover said.

Westover thanked the local post for presenting him with the award.

Post 59 has 123 members on its roster.

Nielsen said, “He’s more than welcome to come to our meetings. We’ve told him that. But being 60 years continuous in that one post — I’m guessing he’s not going to do it.”

Westover agreed.

“It’s been too long to change now. I’m almost a donor now for remaining a member for so long,” he said.

A spokesperson from Post 8 in South Dakota said, “For us legionnaires of Post 8, it is a story reflecting the old ways of devotion. Something that may be missing in the present age

of thinking where one can change loyalty as easily and quickly as changing clothes.”

Besides being a member of the American Legion, Westover is still in contact with many of the men he served with when he was drafted for the Korean War effort.

He served in an Army engineer unit from 1952 to 1954.

“I was in a SCARWAF specialist Army unit with the Air Force, 472EAB Company C. We were sent to France to build a camp and improve an airstrip in the communication zone in Europe.

“We were a full Army engineering unit of nearly 160 men. We were together through basic training and the full two years of my service.”

In the 1970s, some of them began meeting regularly every other year.

“The group is getting smaller every year, but they next meet Feb. 9 in Sun City, Ariz.,” Westover said.

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If you would like to meet Costner or any of his friends, please visit us at:

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