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The question is, what looms ahead for Robinette and SCP?

The answer: Likely more of the same. "I'm still challenged growing and operating the business," said Robinette. "I don't feel stuck or stale."

He does acknowledge that the business is hamstrung by certain geographical limitations. Lone Pine to Lee Vining is the logical service range, he says.

SCP has been serving Inyo County since 2007, offering residential service to about 400 customers in Bishop and Big Pine. SCP also serves the Forest Service in Inyo County, and schools in both Inyo and Mono Counties.

Oddly, while SCP serves Mammoth Hospital, Northern Inyo Hospital is not a client (hmmm).

Residential service rates in Mammoth are \$15/month for twice-monthly curbside pickup. The beginning commercial

rate for home-office type businesses starts at \$24/month.

What Robinette is most pleased about these days is the recent \$107,000 grant he just received from CalRecycle. The grant will fund an SCP/Town of Mammoth Lakes partnership to upgrade all bars/restaurants in town so they have bear-proof containers.

There will also be upgrades to parks containers as well as those in the Lakes Basin.

The containers, says Robinette, cost about \$2,000 apiece, and he feels fortunate to have gotten the grant as it's his impression that state funding is running a little dry. "That might be the last we get for awhile," he said.

**Sheet:** What are you most thankful for?

**Robinette:** Great employees who've stuck with me long-term, the long-term partnerships with the Town and Mammoth Disposal, and most important, my wife of five-and-a-half years, Chris (who works in I.T. at MMSA).

**Sheet:** And the biggest challenge?

**Robinette:** Capital investment and making a return on that investment.

Sure sounds like a small business owner who's been around the block a few times.



## LIVINGWISE

### COULD YOU ACE THIS SURVEY?

Eight years ago, the High Sierra Energy Foundation, with funding provided by Southern California Edison and the Mammoth Community Water District, teamed up with 6th grade Earth Science classes at Mammoth Middle School to initiate the first ever LivingWise® program. The program, designed to emphasize Water and Energy Conservation, is still going strong, and new projects, guest speakers, field trips, and activities are added every year.

Since we are currently in a drought, it is especially important to understand the value of water conservation. In hopes of passing on this valuable water conservation knowledge, the students decided to organize a community outreach activity in the form of a survey sponsored by the Mammoth Community Water District.

From April 2nd-8th, students set up a survey table at Vons, using school district provided iPads to conduct their research. 140 volunteers filled out the 5-question survey, at the same time entering participants into a raffle to win a low-flow, high-efficiency toilet, or a RainBird irrigation control system donated by the Mammoth Community Water District.

Of the 140 participants, 99 were from Mammoth Lakes, 17 from Crowley Lake, 6 from other Inyo/

Mono county towns and 16 from "far away."

38 people had a perfect score on the survey, 23 scored 80 percent, and 65 people scored below 60 percent.

The most common erroneous responses to the quiz were to the following questions: "What is the name of the agency that delivers water to Mammoth Lakes?" and "Do you know where Mammoth's water resources come from?" The answers: Mammoth Community Water District and Lake Mary, respectively.

Nearly all of the participants were aware that California is in a drought and could identify causes of the drought. Similarly, all participants could identify water saving strategies as well as stating they currently implement water saving practices in their homes.

Pamela Stayden of the High Sierra Energy Foundation, Gil Campos, 6th grade Earth Science teacher, and the 6th graders of Mammoth Middle school would like to thank everyone who took the time to fill out the survey, Vons, and especially the Mammoth Community Water District for sponsoring this survey with handout prizes. The grand prize raffle winner was John Mueller of Mammoth Lakes.

The 6th Graders of Mammoth Middle School remind you to always save water and energy!

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private donations, bringing the total budget to \$1.5 million.

Dawson said the building will be named for two local residents, Kate and Paul Page, who were the project's most generous supporters. "They provided a large gift toward this project and a bequest in their estate plan as well," he said. "The bequest is aimed at keeping the technology in the building modern and up-to-date in the future."

A year ago, SNARL hired Thompson Naylor Architects, a boutique architecture firm based in Santa Barbara, to design the classroom. Dawson said the firm recently completed its final design.

The classroom will be 2,696 square feet, have a capacity to seat 120 people, and can also be easily subdivided into smaller meeting spaces.

The project will be LEED Gold Certified, and will use a combination of ground source heating and cooling, as well as photovoltaic energy, to meet its net-zero energy consumption goal.

Ground source heating isn't a new technology, Dawson explained, but hasn't yet been widely used in the west. SNARL has been working with Sierra Eco Systems of Genoa, Nevada, to design its ground source system. The company has already installed several such systems in Mammoth.

"What [ground source heating] does is it makes use of the near constant temperature of the ground," Dawson said. "When you go down 10 feet, the temperature is equal to the average temperature at that location. Around here that ranges from about 58-62 degrees, Fahrenheit. There's a fair bit of energy stored there; the question is, how do you extract and concentrate it?"

Dawson said the process uses conventional heat pumping technology similar to that used in refrigeration. "When you have a big thermal

reservoir, you can extract, concentrate, and deliver heat to a room, but you can also extract heat from the room and dump it in the earth," cooling the room like a refrigerator, he explained.

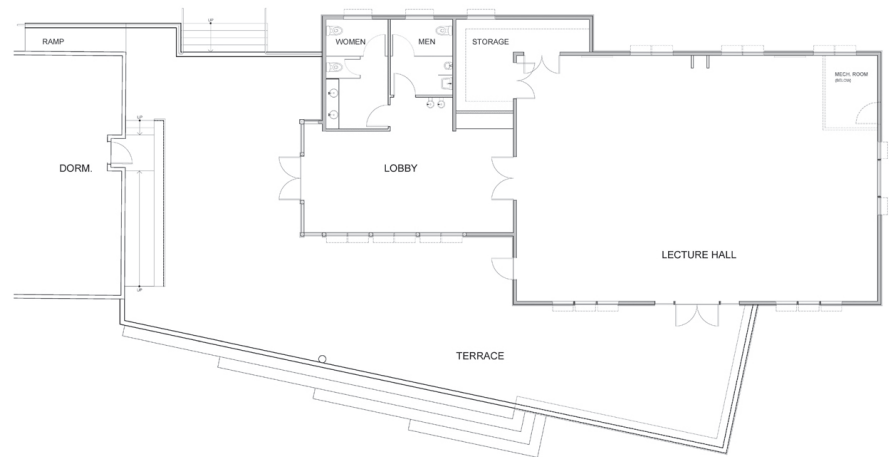
While the classroom won't have a zero carbon footprint, which would require buying expensive energy credits to offset construction costs, "We're trying to get a building that, after its completion, doesn't consume any fossil fuel for its operations," Dawson said.

Dawson added that the classroom has also been designed "with a forward-looking objective," not just in terms of energy use, but also in terms of anticipating changes to technology. Considering cutting-edge classrooms were once equipped with Ethernet ports and now provide cordless wifi, changes in technology can be hard to predict, and costly to keep up with. Dawson said the SNARL classroom will be built with the minimum interfacing equipment in the walls, and more in the lecture podium. This allows for quick and inexpensive upgrades.

SNARL's numerous classes on a range of subjects from snow hydrology to geology, which currently use the living room of the SNARL dormitory, "will also all use the new building in the future," Dawson said. "We hope to have meetings, small conferences and allow researchers to use it for collaboration. Our K-12 program may use it as well."

Project bids for the SNARL classroom were due April 15. The aim is to break ground in May, Dawson said.

"Our lecture series for 2014 will still be in the Green Church," he said, "but we're hoping in 2015 it'll be in this new building."



The SNARL classroom and lecture hall floor plan from the final set of construction drawings. The terrace (deck) has been eliminated in favor of a patio.

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