

# Office remodel effort underway despite obstacles

by Jeff Darlington

The effort to remodel the Committee office has begun again! Many members remember this process from 1993 with the remodel of the Information Center and Bookstore. It is time to move into the other areas of our building that are in dire need.

This winter the problem of the leaking roof finally ballooned into a full-scale hazard. Leaks have caused water damage to the ceiling and the store (see photo) and the need for expanded workspace has come to a head.

Thanks in large part to our supportive membership, the Board of Directors authorized an expansion of the Lee Vining office to include more working space for staff, an additional bathroom, a break room, and a library room. And most importantly, a new (non-leaking) roof! This remodel will enable us to work more effectively on the lake's behalf, and will also include a new interpretive education room adjoining the existing Information Center and Bookstore.

Earlier this year, Mono County informed us of the need to satisfy the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act. This act is a new law that requires



Photo by Arya Degenhardt

Co-Executive Director Geoff McQuilkin and Office Director Jeff Darlington taking care of a winter water leak in the store above the internet access desk.

property owners in suspected fault zones to conduct geological excavations on their property prior to construction. The office sits on the edge of the suspected Lee Vining fault zone, so before breaking ground on any remodel we need to prove that there isn't a fault running under the property. This is a wise precaution of course, but it will cost the Committee approximately \$10,000! This unexpected expense is the first obstacle to meeting the office needs. We're hoping to conduct the geological survey this spring, so any member donations for the survey would be most appreciated!

If the geological survey does not find a fault, we will proceed with getting an architect plan approved by the County this summer. If all goes well construction could begin next spring with minimal impact to operations.

Look for updates on the remodel project in future Newsletters, and thanks again for your support! 🙏

*Jeff Darlington is the Committee's Office Director. He and his wife Christiana have introduced the game of Mah Jong to the Mono Basin gaming circle.*

## Staff updates and migrations

It's still a bit early to tell about spring migrations, but there are some exciting updates both in the offices and around the basin.

**Geoff McQuilkin** was accepted into the 2001 Water Education Foundation Water Leaders class. He is joining 14 other young leaders from agencies, organizations, businesses, and the legislature to learn more about statewide water issues and to share the lessons learned in protecting and

restoring Mono Lake.

**Frances Spivy-Weber** has been appointed to the State's Water Plan Advisory Committee. Her goal is to see the Plan redesigned to provide timely, high quality information to the public on an on-going basis. The Plan makes projections about statewide water demand and supply for 10-30 years, and therefore is extremely important in guiding local and state decision-

makers in choosing what kind of water projects will meet future needs.

And congratulations to former Public Education Coordinator **Stacey Simon** on her recent engagement to local resident **Jack Trefry**. The Mono Basin has always held a special place in Stacey's heart, so after finishing law school in Berkeley she moved back to be with Jack and work as Deputy County Council with the Mono County offices. Congratulations all around!