

7 Harbor Road  
Morganville, NJ 07751  
January 1, 1999

1998

1998 Seasons Greetings from the Peases:

A new record in procrastination for the creation of the annual report on the state of the union. This is the 1998 letter, Rod was just slow in getting things started this year (next year, whatever!). He does have an excuse - lots of free time in 1999 and not much in 1998. AT&T, in its abundant wisdom, decided in 1998 to provide incentives for early retirement (beyond those normally provided by a large employer - see any Dilbert book for details). Details of the program are in the public domain, but the major incentives were a 20% pension boost, medical equal to regular employees, and the ability to take the pension as a lump sum and roll it into an IRA. About 15K employees, including Rod, took the offer. Rod spent the last 6 months of 1998 training others in the project to take over his work so that he could retire, effective 30 December 1998. The hardest part of the training was convincing his peers that he had no plans to get a job in 1999. He worked every day he could, selling his 1998 vacation back to AT&T to maximize the income while there was any, therefore a "New Year's" letter this time around. He is looking forward to the first significant chunk of free time in over 20 years and the chance to do some things that have been postponed for years.

As you can expect, Suzanne is of mixed feelings about this change. She doesn't really object to the extra (anticipated) help around the house, but she is for some reason less enthusiastic about Rod's promise to help teach her how one really should run a graphic design business. She doesn't believe that his experience with AT&T exactly qualifies him as an expert on how businesses should be run, and reading Dilbert in the paper every morning is not helping change her opinion. She has indicated she might consider something like "Vice President, Management Information Systems" for Ampersand Graphics, but has noted that it seems a little much for her just asking to "please fix my computer" a couple of times. Ampersand Graphics is still alive and well, with no immediate plans to shut down in the near future. It remains to be seen how long she can stand Rod on the sofa reading Science Fiction while she is working in the other room. Suzanne is now VP for Corporate & Economic Development for NAWBO (National Association of Women Business Owners) and traveling every couple of months to one meeting or another across the country. This year took her to San Antonio, DC, Salt Lake City, St. Louis, Albuquerque and Cleveland.

Suzanne's meetings were used for the jumping off point for vacations in San Antonio, TX and Utah this year. San Antonio was a city walking tour, with lots of good Mexican food and a few days of reduced pressure in the middle of the winter. Utah was a driving and hiking tour, visiting Bryce and Zion parks, but with no camping involved. Work pressures for Rod minimized the vacation time in 1998, so he postponed the camping to 1999. The plans are now for Rod and Suzanne to take a 1 week camping tour in Alaska in July. That should give them enough time in 1999 to toughen up after a whole year of not sleeping on the ground.

Two trips were made to Louisiana, the second because of the unexpected death of Rod's father two days before Thanksgiving. He died in his sleep at age 84 and will be greatly missed.

Kevin's life has undergone a few changes this year. He left his job in NYC to take another job in Beach Haven, NJ, and decided that the new job would be too far for a commute from Harbor Road, so he signed a lease on an apartment in Tuckerton NJ, about 1.5 hours south of Harbor Road. This happened in mid-March. By early April, he decided the new job wasn't working out and opened Cerulean Studio, his own business to do graphic design work, with an emphasis on web page design. So our family now consists of two entrepreneurial artists and an unemployed programmer. Kevin will probably move from his current apartment, perhaps to the Philadelphia area, when the lease is up, since Tuckerton is not the best spot for getting new business. If you need help with your web page, or just want to see some interesting graphics, look at his home page.

Best wishes for a happy 1999!

rod.pease@worldnet.att.net  
speaseamp@aol.com

<http://home.att.net/~rod.pease/>

kevinpease@worldnet.att.net

<http://home.att.net/~kevinpease/>