

7 Harbor Road
Morganville, NJ 07751
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1999 Seasons Greetings from the Peases:

Many adjustments were needed to the Pease lifestyle over 1999. Let it be recorded that Rod has adjusted just fine and Suzanne is working on it. In fact, Suzanne is actually the only one still working, since Rod has managed to remain unemployed for 11 months so far and counting, contrary to every 1998 prediction from any AT&T employee. Whenever he gets the urge to bang on the keyboard, the internet provides sufficient outlet right at home without having to commit to long hours in the belly of the corporate beast.

As a result of Rod's extra free time, he has been doing more traveling this year, mostly with Suzanne, but occasionally on his own. Rod started the year off with a road trip to Louisiana by himself in January to see if he still remembered how to drive for more than a couple hours at a time. Being on the road by himself brought back old memories of motorcycling in the 60's, but he found having a roof on the mode of transportation a distinct improvement. With plenty of time on his hands, he "tagged along" on several of Suzanne's trips, including ones to Silver Springs MD, St. Martin and Atlanta. He had to buy his own plane ticket to St. Martin, but it was worth it to sit on the beach in mid winter while Suzanne worked on putting together a brochure for one of the resorts there. The highlight of the travel schedule this year was a long awaited trip to Alaska in July whose core was a week-long tour of the national parks, camping out of a van with a small group. Anyone with more than casual interest can look at some of the Alaska photos on Rod's web page. The trip to Louisiana by car in late October was somewhat less scenic than Alaska, but was done just in time to hit the Fall color most of the way, so was more interesting than the solo trip by Rod in midwinter. Rod's 35th high school class reunion was held in Lafayette during that trip and it was interesting to see how few people recognized Rod without a scan of the nametag first. He figures the major confusion factor was the migration of hair from the top to the bottom of his head during the last 30 years.

Suzanne is still active in NJAWBO (New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners) and NAWBO (National Association of Women Business Owners), making trips to Las Vegas, Chicago, Montana, Connecticut, Washington DC and Dallas to support the organization and look for business leads. She extended her expertise to golf this year, organizing a series of fund raising golfing events for NJAWBO, culminating in a tournament this fall. Yes it is Rod that retired and Suzanne that took up golf. Rod hasn't bought clubs yet - he's holding out for a move to a warmer climate first. This year Rod bought his first new computer in many years whose selection was not primarily influenced by the needs of Suzanne's business. For about a month he had the fastest machine in the house, until Suzanne decided she needed a new machine too. The speed of the new PCs is incredible, but it is unfortunately more credible how easily they track the downward motion of the retirement portfolio. Its nice that the red phosphors on the monitors are now very robust or monitor replacement would be a regular expense.

When not playing video games or traversing the web, Rod is increasing his skill as a chef, doing all the cooking. Suzanne refers to it as her "diet plan" for some unknown reason. There are also far fewer complaints about the rubber chicken served at her nighttime meetings and on her business trips.

Kevin is making a living with his own graphic design firm - Cerulean Studio. While he has not found the time yet to move to a location closer to a major customer base (like Philadelphia or NY), he has found time to maintain his own web address, www.cerulean.st, including regular editions of the comic strip he started in college, Absurd Notions. Apparently it has a reasonable following among those who read internet comics. Now all he needs is a sponsor.

May your Y2K problems be small ones.



Rod
Suzanne
Kevin

email:
rod.pease@worldnet.att.net
speaseamp@aol.com
mail@cerulean.st

web page:
<http://home.att.net/~rod.pease/>
<http://home.att.net/~ampersand.graphics>
www.cerulean.st