

7 Harbor Road
Morganville, NJ 07751
13 December 2000

2000 Seasons Greetings from Rod and Suzanne:

The millennium was kind to us - none of the many household computers crashed, so Rod has officially adopted the title of "System Administrator" for Ampersand Graphics, as those of you who have received email from him recently have noted. No, it is an unpaid position, so he still retains the coveted status of retiree, and appears to enjoy it.

The extra free time for Rod has led to more travel for him during the year. It has even led to more travel time spent by Suzanne, since he has convinced her to make some of the trips via auto that she would have done by air if traveling alone. He managed to convince her to attend the NAWBO (National Association of Women Business Owners) conference in Florida in February via car so they could see Saint Augustine on the way and Rod would have a car to search out non-Mickey Mouse BBQ joints at the Orlando destination. Rod enjoyed the shirtsleeve weather in February, but not the crowding in the Disney resorts. He does have a new respect for the business acumen of Disney.

Suzanne was determined not to drive on the next trip, so she managed to get the Tunisian government to invite her to attend a women's conference in Tunis in March. (Tunisia is in Northern Africa—she had to look it up too.) She correctly concluded that Rod could not figure out some way to drive instead of fly, so he stayed home. As she was representing NAWBO at the conference, her expenses were paid, but that also meant she had to listen to days of speeches translated from Arabic. She found the experience interesting, meeting people (including the Princess of Jordan and the President of Tunisia) with very different viewpoints from her normal circle of acquaintances. After her address to the conference, she received an invitation to visit Iraq, but did not accept, having already been instructed by Rod that, "If you get in trouble, I am not coming to get you." Besides, she decided she liked international travel and would like to use her passport again someday.

Rod got to exercise his furniture moving muscles for the first time in a couple of years helping Kevin and his friends move the accumulations of a couple of years to a Kevin's new apartment in Collingswood, NJ - a suburb of Philadelphia. That puts him closer to both friends and a market for his talents. It also means mass transit and shopping within walking distance, a distinct improvement over his previous apartment in that respect.

In March Rod's mother was in the hospital for a few weeks, so after she got out, Rod made a solo road trip to Louisiana to visit and see how things were progressing. Janell arranged for a schedule of full time companions and took over the day-to-day finances, so there was little for him to do.

The big entertainment event of 2000 was a walking tour in England. We visited London for a few days, then went to the Cotswolds for a week of hiking through the countryside during the day, returning to our Inn in the evening for showers, excellent food and a good nights sleep. We got some nice photographs to go with our aching muscles, even if it was overcast most of the time. Both of us really enjoyed the vacation, finding it a nice match for interests and a little vacation pampering, something a pure camping vacation doesn't always provide.

In September another NAWBO meeting, this time in Washington DC, prompted Rod to volunteer as chauffeur. He drove Suzanne down to DC, dropped her at her hotel, then headed west to the Shenandoah National Park to camp until she was ready to come home. A good time was had by all, except for Rod

having to break camp in the pouring rain. It was however almost worth it to see the face of the bellhop at the hotel when he opened the trunk to add Suzanne's luggage and the water poured out.

While most past years at Harbor Road can be identified by which computer was purchased that year, 2000 was unique for its lack that particular hardware purchase. As the capital expenditure habit is hard to break, Suzanne decided that the new 3-megapixel digital cameras were irresistible. Ampersand Graphics new Epson camera has a serial and USB port, has a screen, uses menus, audio recorder and silicon memory cards — in other words is almost a PC. The other characteristic it shares with PCs is its dislike for being bounced off of a hardwood floor, but we don't really want to go into detail about that. We will just say that if you must play basketball with a camera, make it an Epson that you have just purchased and hope you get the same understanding folks at the Epson repair facility that sent Suzanne a replacement at no charge.

In November Rod was getting bored again so he convinced Suzanne that a somewhat longer road trip was just the thing to get her to her NAWBO board meeting in San Diego. Weather in San Diego in November is also preferable to New Jersey, but it is a long drive to get there. We didn't see many of the real tourist spots along the way, but Rod did spend the NAWBO meeting time in San Diego walking around its Old Town, downtown, Balboa Park, and the Zoo. The real tourist experience was attempting to find a place to eat on the road on Thanksgiving Day. The hamburgers at Denny's were surprisingly good and they were open, which couldn't be said of most of the other restaurants in Rolla at that time.

Those interested in photos and details of our trips can look at them online on the associated web sites.

| | | |
|---------|--|---|
| Rod | email: | web page: |
| Suzanne | rod.pease@worldnet.att.net | http://home.att.net/~rod.pease/ |
| Kevin | speaseamp@aol.com | http://home.att.net/~ampersand.graphics |
| | mail@cerulean.st | www.cerulean.st |