

7 Harbor Road
Morganville, NJ 07751
16 December 2001

2001 Seasons Greetings from Rod and Suzanne:

While 2001 has brought many changes to the world, not a lot has changed at the Pease household. Suzanne is still running her business, Ampersand Graphics, and is extremely active in NAWBO, National Association of Women Business Owners. Her clients this year include an importer of South American hardwoods, a manufacturer of engine parts, state agencies, a translation service, several start ups and of course the ever present builder/developers and architects. The variety keeps her interested and challenged. Rod is still reading Science Fiction, and extremely inactive in all other forms of business.

Domestic travel seemed to be the major entertainment activity for 2001. Suzanne managed to average about 1 trip a month, with most of them being business related. Rod went along as chauffeur on some of the business trips, but did manage to convince Suzanne to take some time this year for pure vacation. The theme this year was more short trips, with an emphasis on camping. Rod's web site contains photos from some of the more photogenic locations, if you are still interested after finishing this letter.

The February NAWBO conference in Phoenix for which Suzanne was responsible went off without any major hitches, perhaps due to the wisdom of her spouse, who decided that being on the opposite side of the country while she was attempting to run things would contribute significantly to his long term health.

The major road trip for the year was to the next NAWBO convention in Detroit in June. Rod has discovered that NAWBO meetings offer an opportunity to stay in expensive downtown hotels in the inner city while Suzanne ignores him for several days. The optimum vacation solution for him is to deliver her at the hotel and head for the hills. This time the hills were in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore on the shore of Lake Michigan, stopping in South Bend for a visit with his cousin on the way. He picked up Suzanne after her convention ended and due to construction, police raids, and emergency drills at her hotel, both agreed that his had been the better accommodations during the few days they were apart. As it was the right time of the year, they headed for Mackinac Island for a day of perfect weather, walking around the island and looking at the lilacs in peak bloom. The return to NJ was via Sleeping Bear, where Suzanne's presence caused an increase in temperature, mosquitoes, flies, and dead alewives on the beach, leading to a less pleasing experience than that had by Rod the previous week. Luckily for the relatives, the wildlife refused to follow her as far as South Bend, where we got a tour of Notre Dame before heading home.

Camping was the main theme for the next two trips, a repeat of a favorite to the Catskills and a new destination at Letchworth State Park in NY. Both trips were short and timed to fit between rainy weather on the long term forecasts.

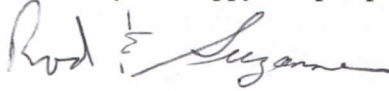
Over the past few years we have become more interested in the concept of "Rail Trails". These are old railroad right-of-ways that have been converted to trails for hikers, bikers, roller bladers, and/or horseback riding. This year we hiked a section of one on our Catskill camping trip and decided it was about time to try bicycles to see if that was an option that could extend our range. In September we tried renting bicycles and taking the Pine Creek Trail near Wellsboro PA. The consensus was that we could significantly increase the distance traveled at the same time as reducing the physical demands. Since Monmouth County has started clearing the old rail bed 150 feet from our house to provide an extension to the Henry Hudson rail trail, we will probably be shifting some of our exercise program from walking to bicycling in the next few years. We have been more religious about walking 2 miles every day since a high cholesterol reading sent Suzanne to the diet and exercise books. Having a convenient trail would be a great improvement over diving into the bushes to avoid cars on our daily walk along Harbor Road.

The October NAWBO Board meeting was the excuse for the last long road trip, which we made via Louisiana. It was actually a hybrid transportation mode, as Rod drove the whole way, but Suzanne flew from Lake Charles, LA to Nashville and Rod picked her up after her meeting in downtown Nashville at the old train station (it's actually a hotel now). That gave him time for a leisurely drive up the Natchez Trace Parkway with time to make a few of the stops along the way.

At various times during the year, Suzanne has managed to visit Little Rock, Washington DC, Ft. Lauderdale, Virginia Beach and Pittsburgh without Rod. Details on these trips can be obtained from the police reports filed in the respective cities. Rod follows a "don't ask, don't ask" policy in these matters.

Kevin is still in Collingswood, NJ - currently looking for a full time job. He has moved from 1106C to 1104B last month, affording his dad the opportunity for some exercise, helping move furniture from one side of the building to the other. He is still running his online comic strip, but at a new address hosted by a supporter sympathetic to his problem of paying for increasing fees for hits with an increasing readership.

We wish you a happy and prosperous 2002.

Handwritten signatures of Rod and Suzanne in cursive script.

Rod and Suzanne

web pages:

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

Suzannes home page at <http://home.att.net/~ampersand.graphics/>

Kevins home page at www.cerulean.st

Kevins online comic strip at www.absurdnotions.org

email:

Rod's email: rod.pease@worldnet.att.net

Suzanne's email: spease&@aol.com

Kevin's email: mail@cerulean.st