

7 Harbor Road
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17 December 2002

2002 Seasons Greetings from Rod and Suzanne:

2002 was a big year in politics. While to most of you that may mean the Republicans increased their hold on reins of government in Washington DC, the biggest political event in the Pease household was actually the election of Suzanne to the office of President of NAWBO, National Association of Women Business Owners, for the 2003-2004 year. For the uninitiated, that means a 3-year commitment, with 2002-2003 as President-In-Waiting and 2004-2005 as Has-Been-President. Note: NAWBO uses less interesting titles for these 2 offices.

As a result of increased NAWBO activity, domestic travel continues to be the major entertainment activity for 2002. Rod is still resisting the idea of purchasing a chauffeur's uniform, in spite of the number of NAWBO meetings to which he has driven Suzanne. Uniform catalogs are still being dropped on chairs wherever he might happen to see them, sometimes to his annoyance as he occupies said chair. While he may avoid that uniform, even bookmakers in Vegas won't take bets that he will make it past mid-2003 before being forced to upgrade his suit collection. His goal had been to purchase the next suit on the 20th anniversary of his last suit purchase in 1985.

Due to a somewhat relaxed view of "on the way", Rod managed a record total of 3 trips to Louisiana in 2002 on the way to NAWBO meetings. Since Rod had enjoyed his drive along the Natchez Trace last year, Suzanne prevailed on him to take her back along it in April on the way to a meeting in New Orleans. Rod dropped her there and visited in Lafayette, then picked her up after the meeting and returned home after only spending a day there himself.

The second chauffeured trip was a little more complex. Suzanne had a NAWBO meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, in June, but wouldn't commit to the time needed to drive out and back, so she got an air ticket to Salt Lake and one back from Portland, Oregon, a month later. Rod drove out to Salt Lake to pick her up after the meeting, stopping "on the way" in Louisiana, Texas, and any other point of interest he could find along the route.

The only planned stop that was skipped was the one in Show Low, AZ, as the date happened to be the one where they evacuated the town due to fire. Even driving through a couple of hours before the evacuation was pretty scary. After picking up Suzanne, we killed a few days sightseeing in Utah before starting a "llama trek" into the Escalante wilderness for 4 days. Anyone interested in the details should look at the photos & information on Rod's web site, but the bottom line is: "highly recommended".

After the trek, we both went through Vegas to CA, where we visited national parks and old friends, then to Oregon to see relatives and more parks. After dropping Suzanne in Portland, Rod visited more parks, relatives and friends on the way home. Total duration for Rod was about 8 weeks and 10k miles driven.

The third chauffer job was trivial after June and July, merely halfway across the country again to Houston and Dallas, Texas. This time Louisiana was actually on the way, even without the use of a cross-eyed trip planner. Suzanne got to spend some time with her brother in Lake Charles where he is planning an extended stay in Alaska for the 2003-2004 season. For some reason he thinks Nome in the winter will be "interesting".

Suzanne is still running Ampersand Graphics, with this years client projects including the layout and publication of two books, developers' packages for about 5 new subdivisions, and brochures for many small businesses and 2 government agencies. She is hoping to get her Web site up on line soon, but paying jobs come first and... the shoemaker's children usually go barefoot.

Rod is still reading Science Fiction and cooking. This year wasn't a good year for gardening however. With the extended time away, the local deer started to think that even the minimal garden was provided solely for their culinary pleasure. Not a single tomato survived long enough to make it to the table, and even the flowers were grazed regularly. Where is the NRA when they are needed?

Kevin is in Collingswood, NJ, unemployed and discouraged. He has even stopped his online comic strip due to artistic burnout. We all hope for an end to this extended recession and a return to the more vibrant economic times of years ago.

We wish you a happy and prosperous 2003.

Rod and Suzanne

web pages:

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

Suzanne's home page at <http://home.att.net/~ampersand.graphics/>

Kevin's home page at www.cerulean.st

Kevin's online comic strip at www.absurdnotions.org

email:

Rods email: rod.pease@att.net

Suzanne's email: speaseamp@aol.com

Kevin's email: mail@cerulean.st