

SOMBER XMAS NEWS FLASH

DEAN SENDS X-MAS GREETINGS

Avoiding the use of “eschewing” for one straight year!

Merry Christmas to you and yours. I hope this holiday season finds everyone happy and healthy.

Christmas is approaching like a hurtling meteor that will extinguish all life on this planet as we know it. Then, on some long distant day in the unimaginable future after the cockroaches have achieved sentience, one of their noted archeologists will unearth a copy of this newsletter. After laborious years of effort they will eventually translate it and it won't make any more sense to them than it makes to you. Please keep this in mind as you read this newsletter.

As most of you are already well aware, this year has been a pretty tough one. On the first day of February I was at work in Mission Control when the space shuttle Columbia broke up over North Texas taking the lives of the seven astronauts on board. Not knowing any members of the crew particularly well made it less of a blow to me than to others, but it still wasn't all that easy to deal with what had happened. Since that day a lot of work has been done to not only determine what happened, but to ensure that when we return to flight we'll do so safely - I'm looking forward to that day.

My Dad would have been 69 years old this last August. I say “would have” since he passed away in July. While it isn't the kind of thing you can ever really be ready for it wasn't a total surprise as his health had been in decline for the last several years. One comfort I did have is that I was able to be there before he died but as is generally the case I regret that I didn't spend more time with him over the years.

But that's enough sad events for this newsletter. Not because I don't think they're not important or the kinds of things that I should cover in this annual mailing, but rather that pretty much sums up items of that nature for the year. And after all, who really expects me to be somber throughout one of these newsletters?



JUST IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ENOUGH SNOW YET THIS YEAR!

When it comes down to it, other than that there really isn't much to tell. Oh sure, I did get out of town a few times, a few people have visited from out of town, and there's even been a couple of parties at my house, but you get enough of that sort of crap from other Christmas newsletters. Just substitute names and locations as you see fit from those other letters you've received and that should give you at least a rough idea of what I may or may not have been up to this year.

Normally I'd be wrapping this thing up around this point, but I just realized I do have an additional somber fact to relate. As you may have guessed from the subtle clues that I didn't provide I'm about to turn 40. Whether this event will be commemorated in any way shape or form has not been determined as of yet but you can rest assured that I will indeed be another year older. Maybe.

However, if I were to write some angry screed about the inevitable march of time you'd probably find it at:

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Dean_Lenort/homepage.htm

So to the cockroaches of the future, this shouldn't be taken as a typical newsletter but rather as one of the best ever created. Well at least I think so. But really, it is my sincere hope that this holiday season is a good one full of fun and cheer for you and yours.

Dean