

Dear friends,

## 2008

This will be the last newsletter this year. We won't forget 2008 very easily. Many things have happened but I think this year will be remembered by two events: the financial crisis and Barak Obama. The first one will end but the big question is: when? Your new president has a huge target in getting the economy of the USA back on track . I'm sure it will happen but..... when?

## 2009

For sure 2009 will bring lots of good things. I'm hopeful and I'm sure we all will embrace better times next year. I still stick to my plan: do some test tours in 2009 and start up the business in the summer of 2010.

## Christmas

But first thing first: Christmas. Like in the States this is a big occasion in the Netherlands too. Christian people celebrate the birth of the son of God. The rest of the people simply have a great time. A few days off enjoying (family) visits en good food. And off course a lot of *gezelligheid*. (cosines)

To have some fun during your Christmas diner some Dutch words to practice:

Good morning,-evening, -afternoon	<i>Goede morgen, -middag, -avond</i>
Hello	<i>Hallo</i>
Good bye	<i>Tot ziens</i>
My name is ....	<i>Mijn naam is .....</i>
You're welcome	<i>Geen dank (literally: no thanks)</i>
Thanks	<i>Bedankt</i>
Excuse me	<i>Pardon</i>
Did you enjoy your meal?	<i>Goede bekomst*</i>
Have a nice meal	<i>Eet smakelijk*</i>

\* Before every meal it's a Dutch custom to wish each other a good meal. *Have a nice meal or diner*. And afterwards we never forget to wish other people well. It is very impolite to forget. So please remember and don't forget it whenever you visit the Netherlands.

## Dutch habit

To end this newsletter I'll explain another Dutch habit.

Americans like to hug good friends. We only hug very very good friends, but we kiss everyone. Doing this in our own Dutch style: give the other one 3 kisses on the cheeks. Left-right-left. Or, and this is the tricky part, right-left-right. Please be careful during practice!

Next newsletter: next February 2009. Just to keep you folks informed.

Have a great time with your family and friends.



Merry Christmas and a happy new year

*Regards,*  
Kyle

Ps. If you aren't interested please let me know and I'll stop the e-mails.