



# Rock Chips

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Deming Gem and Mineral Society P.O. Box 1459, Deming, NM 88031 [thedgms@gmail.com](mailto:thedgms@gmail.com)

April, 2020

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## Message from the Prez:

Hi everybody,

We're still hanging in there. Trying to keep shop open and staying our distances. Jan and Galen cleaned up the shop and it looks real good. Moving items in back room to go over to the shed next week. We spray the machines and the room to keep any germs down. Please, if you do not feel good, please stay home. My husband is 91 and I do not wish to bring this virus home to him.

We are still planning on field trips during the summer and remember SNAKES are on the move. Check under bushes before you reach for that precious stone.

Many thanks to Linda for the Chips. I have had many phone calls and cards saying they really enjoy it.

On a sad note, for those that remember Nancy Johnson, she passed away last week. Please keep the family in your Prayers. Carl and Gail say hello to you all. Both doing very good. If anyone is sick or knows of someone then let me know and I'll get a card out to them. Take care, stay healthy, and good luck on your trips. I hope Jim Paddock's back gets back to normal and he starts feeling better, instead of the pain in the back.

Marilyn

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### DGMS 2020 Officers:

**President: Marilyn Page**

**Vice President: Judy Murphy**

**Secretary: Bill Gallagher**

**Treasurer: Donna George**

**Board Members: Marvin Clary, Cathy Burnett, Carolyn Abbey**

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## Board Meeting Minutes, April 1, 2020

The DGMS Board Meeting was cancelled by President Marilyn Page due to Covid-19 restrictions.

## General Meeting Minutes, April 23, 2020

The DGMS General Meeting been **CANCELLED** by Marilyn Page, President due to Covid-19 restrictions.

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New Mexico beauties- Poppy splendor!

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## ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP

As you know, our turnout for the Roundup was impacted, first of all by the uncertainty of our having the show this year, and then by being ordered to shut down and then told later that we could reopen after many participants had already left for home. That being said, we conducted the metal detecting contest on Sunday morning. Bill Gallagher submitted the following article taken from his blog:

## Treasure Hunting with Bill Gallagher

“The metal detecting contestants who did show up at the Deming Gem and Mineral Society’s Second Annual Metal Detecting Competition found lots of good stuff though, and many came from out of town. Keith Rickwartz attended for his second year, with his wife and hunting partner, Rhonda, from San Antonio, Texas. Both found good things, and also visited the rock show during their 3-day stay in Deming. Thanks for the great trade, Keith, and all the help.

Dan and Charlotte Bandy also attended for their second year. They were getting used to a new Minelab, as was Rick Fuller from Washington State. Joe Miller from Albuquerque, NM won the most prizes (and was done hunting first!) and he seemed pretty happy, though his partner was heard to remark that “Miller hardly left any for the rest of us.”

That was not really the case, and nearly half the prizes went unclaimed this year, including the gold coin. It’s been decided that all the unclaimed prizes will be rolled over for next year, and any old tokens will be void. New tokens will be acquired for next year’s hunt and they have been tested and are almost always found, i.e. they are easier targets to hear.

My tokens this year, all 80 of them, were nickel-sized aluminum punched from cat food cans and planted just below the surface, and, though a better type than last year’s steel washers, they are still obviously lacking. Also, 40 Mercury dimes were buried as well, along with 50 wheat cents scattered about, and some other oddball coinage from the world at large. Ernie Leschner of Quemado, NM won a Barber half dollar from the New Orleans mint as a prize for the most junk, and Keith Rickwartz won a roll of wheat cents for second most junk. The junk this year was measured in handfuls versus wheelbarrow loads, because I moved the site of the hunt. Though very close to last year’s site, the junk was minimal compared to the first year, and the ground was very clear of debris. The hunt site is an older part of Deming Airport active during the Second World War, or thereabout. Several older wheat cents were found deep and were not planted by me, one a 1924 in very good shape.

A small bit of advice for what it is worth: many people today are buying gold detectors and most of those have very little or no discrimination, but they can detect very deep. This is excellent in the wilds where people have not littered trash all over the surface, but for most treasure hunting situations a good discriminating detector is **ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL**, and worth its weight in gold, especially in the water at swimming sites. Once again, if you can obtain a copy, read Wallace Chandler’s book [Advanced Shallow Water Treasure Hunting](#).

Best Wishes. See you in the field

B

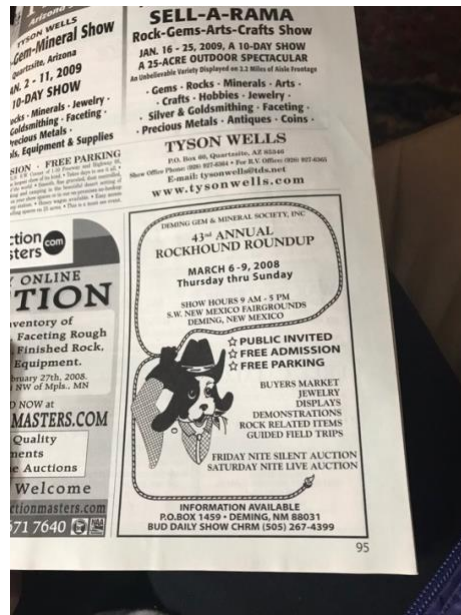




If anyone has an article they could write and contribute please email it to us!!! Also any pictures!!!

## Blast from the Past

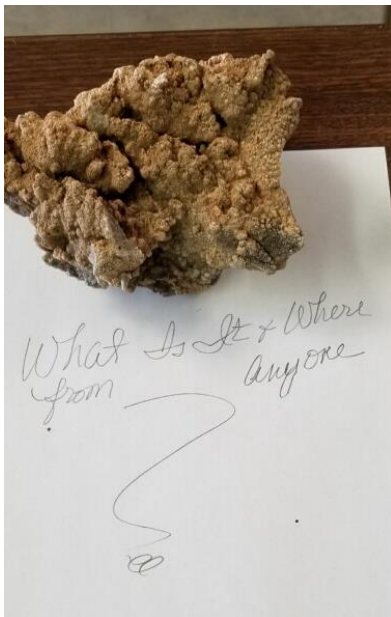
I was perusing a 2008 edition yesterday of Rock and Gem magazine and ran across this ad in the back.



## Rock Identification

(Need a little help from my friends)

The following rocks have been donated to the club in the past and unfortunately the identification is unknown. If you have any information about who may have donated these items and the identification of them please contact Donna at the club or email the club. Thanks you!



## LAPIDARY TIPS

### Lapidary Tips from Judy



#### Tool-apron storage

Tool aprons can be modified to store nearly any household item. Just sew a variety of pocket widths in the apron, then mount them by screwing a wood strip through the top of each and into a door. For hollow-core doors, use drywall fasteners to hold the screws firmly to the door.

# Lapidary Tips from Bill Gallagher

## Home-built Vibratory Tumbler

Bill's YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/zdACw4MUGp0>

Check it Out!

"This is a home-made tumbler that far surpasses the performance of most multi-thousand-dollar machines. It can be made bigger or smaller depending on your motor size. This unit costs less than 20 dollars to build and out-performs most other vibrating tumblers. Vibrating flat laps can also be fashioned on this principle. This plan set is featured in Bill Gallagher's book "How to Build Better Lapidary Equipment". To see the tumbler in action tune into Bill's YouTube site listed above.

This tumbler will be donated by Bill to the club to be used as a shop machine in demonstrations for craft and rock shows. Thanks, Bill!!!

If you have any tips to pass along, please email them to the club so we can share with others.



## Field Trips:

The following dates and times are for the May Field trip:

- Saturday, April 25. The location is Fierro, NM and target rocks are serpentine and others. Line up at the club at 8:00 am and leave at 8:30 am.

Judy Murphy reporting on the Round Mountain field trip that was rescheduled for Saturday April 4 says:

"Attending were Judy, Jim, Marilyn, Kathy, Ernie and his wife with Jack, the rock digging dog. Everyone spread out well in different directions. Here are some of the chalcedony pieces that we found that day. If they were lucky, some found possible fire agate pieces. One fire agate about 2 inches long was found also."



Chalcedony



Views on way in to Round Mtn.



Images by Judy

## Community Participation:

Our club supports a number of community projects and activities. Some of these include:

- Collection of cancelled stamps for dialysis and cancer patients.
- Collection of plastic bottle caps for Special Education class for the Buddy Bench at Bell Elementary in Deming.
- Aluminum can collecting for donation to the Scouts, 4-H, and underprivileged.
- Earth Science Scholarship/Donation of \$1000.00 to schools to buy materials.
- Donation of \$500.00 to kindergarten, first grade, and Special Education classes at Bell Elementary to buy school supplies.
- Annual donations to various charities as determined by the Board.



## Spotlight on Rocks and Minerals by Bill Gallagher

### Silver and its Ores

Silver (Ag) is a native element precious metal that is rarely found in pure form, being reactive with several common chemicals, most notably sulfur, and even with light itself. It is this latter attribute which was the basis of photography for over a century. In spite of this, silver is one of the most reflective of all materials, and it is also the greatest conductor of electricity and heat, among all the metals. Silver is a potent disinfectant and biocide, and it is thought that a certain class of people in Europe were once immune to some of the ravaging disease during medieval times due to ingesting minute amounts

of silver, of which their eating utensils were made.

When found pure, one form of silver is called Wire Silver. Wire silver specimens command high prices, but not as high as the rare cube shaped or octahedral crystals. Massive silver has also been found, such as that from the Burro Mountains north of Silver City New Mexico, which was mined, loaded on train cars, and sent directly to a US Mint for melting into bullion and coins. This notation can be further researched in the book "Minerals of New Mexico" (ISBN: 082631662X/0-8263-1662-X) Northrop, Stuart A.; Labruzzo, Florence A.

In pure form silver is usually found at the lower levels of lead, zinc or silver deposits. In most circumstances silver is a chemical component recovered from pyritic hard rock ore by a variety of refining processes which include smelting, electrolysis, and chemical leaching. The refinement of silver from ore nearly always includes pulverization of some sort, and the finer the grind the greater the recovery. Rocks containing silver are said to be Argentiferous. Many argentiferous rocks are found in the vicinity of manganese, and it is Psilomelane, a decorative-gem-form of botryoidal manganese, which the old time miners called "Cap of Silver". Almost all natural lead contains silver, and it is actually the electrolytic De-silvering of natural lead which produces most of the world's silver. Because of silver's photo-reactive properties, many of its ores and/or forms are black in color, and that color is of prime importance when searching for silver ore.

Other types of silver bearing materials: Argentite/Acanthite, technically Silver sulfide, is a pseudo-cubic crystalline form manifesting as dendrites, incrustations and masses. Chlorargyrite is Silver chloride, and forms as small grayish green crystals which turn purplish black or brown when exposed to light. Incidentally, any stone that darkens to blackish brown when exposed to light has a very good chance of containing silver. Polybasite is Silver copper antimony sulfide and forms as tabular somewhat hexagonal crystals with beveled edges which often exhibit triangular growth marks, or bladed or granular black masses. Pyrargyrite is Silver antimony sulfide and forms as hemimorphic prismatic reddish black crystals. Stephanite is also Silver antimony sulfide whose prismatic to tabular black crystals are rare, and the form is usually found massive or disseminated as coatings or layers in hydrothermally altered vugs. Proustite is Silver arsenic sulfide, which is usually shiny dark red and massive, though it may form striated rhombohedral crystals on occasion. Sylvanite is another form of silver ore, and is technically a Silver gold telluride which often forms as incrustations said to resemble writing, or as stubby prismatic and/or arborescent crystals.

For many years silver was the mainstay of global coinage, and the American Dollars name is actually derived from a silver locale in Bohemia named Joachim or Joachimsthal, Thal = valley. The coins from this region were very popular in the world of commerce because of the size and purity. The coins became known as Joachimsthaler, and were



minted all across Europe as a sort of standard. The name was changed or shortened in various venues, to Thaler, Taler, Daalder hence Dollar. The term two bits is synonymous with the American quarter dollar because the Spanish version of this coin, the 8 reale silver "Piece of 8", had a quarter measure of 2 reales, two bits.



(Royalty-free photos internet)

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Ed. Note: *Warning*

Soluble silver salts, specially  $\text{AgNO}_3$ , are lethal in concentrations of up to 2g (0.070 oz). Silver compounds can be slowly absorbed by body tissues, with the consequent bluish or blackish skin pigmentation (argyria).

Eye contact: may cause severe corneal injury if liquid comes in contact with the eyes. Skin

contact: may cause skin irritation. Repeated and prolonged contact with skin may cause allergic

dermatitis. Inhalation hazards: exposure to high concentrations of vapors may cause dizziness, breathing difficulty, headaches or respiratory irritation. Extremely high concentrations may cause drowsiness, staggering, confusion, unconsciousness, coma or death.

Read more: <https://www.lenntech.com/periodic/elements/ag.htm#ixzz6K3jF7d6e>

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## Critter of the Month: The Elusive Jackelope: Fact or Fiction? You decide!



Kansas restaurant mount



Shope Papilloma virus  
Images from Wikipedia



circa 1575

While the Jackelope's genetic origin is still being hotly debated (Bunny+antelope vs. bunny+deer; jack vs. cottontail), jackelopes have been spotted in every state where bunnies can be found, but mostly in the west. While every state claims its origin, Douglas WY is laying claim and also supports the jack+antelope theory, possibly because the former name of Douglas was Antelope.

Jackalopes have a terrifying reputation and are said to be so dangerous that hunters are advised to wear stovepipes on their legs to keep from being gored. Stores in Douglas, WY sell jackalope milk, but *The New York Times* questions its authenticity on grounds that milking a jackalope is known to be fraught with risk. One of the ways to catch a jackalope is to entice it with whiskey, the jackalope's beverage of choice. The antlered species of rabbit are brownish in color, weight between three and five pounds, and move with lightning speeds of up to 90 miles per hour. They are said to be vicious when attacked and use their antlers to fight, thus they are sometimes called the "warrior rabbit."

The jackalope can imitate the human voice. During the days of the [Old West](#), when cowboys gathered by the campfires singing at night, jackalopes could be heard mimicking their voices or singing along, usually as a [tenor](#). It is said that jackalopes, the rare *Lepus antilocapra*, only breed during lightning flashes and that their antlers make the act difficult despite the hare's reputation for fertility (and gestation of 30 days).

Promoted as endangered, their decimation may be severe if we base it on the number of mounted dead Jackalope heads we've seen in gift shops across the American West (and these are just the rabbit sized specimens).

#### **Close Relatives:**

Fur Bearing Trout

Jackpheasant

*The New York Times* article, clearly written by someone who has never sat by a campfire out west, and obviously a non-believer, attributes the American jackalope's origin to a 1932 hunting outing involving Douglas Herrick (1920–2003) of [Douglas, Wyoming](#). Herrick and his brother had studied [taxidermy](#) by mail order as teenagers, , and when the brothers returned from a hunting trip for jackrabbits, Herrick tossed a carcass into the taxidermy store, where it came to rest beside a pair of deer antlers. The accidental combination of animal forms sparked 12-year-old Herrick's idea for a jackalope. The brothers were clearly charlatans looking to capitalize off of the actual jackalopes and make some much needed cash to go to the movies. The first jackalope the brothers put together was sold for \$10 to Roy Ball, who displayed it in Douglas' La Bonte Hotel and the Herrick brothers became Wyoming's answer to Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak.

Though the mounted head was stolen in 1977, the jackalope became a popular local attraction in Douglas, where the Chamber of Commerce (still capitalizing off of an endangered species) issues Jackalope Hunting Licenses to tourists. The tags are good for hunting during official jackalope season, which occurs for only one day: June 31 (a nonexistent date as June has 30 days), from midnight to 2 a.m. The hunter must have an IQ greater than 50 but not over 72. Thousands of "licenses" have been issued. In Herrick's home town of Douglas, there is an 8-foot (2.4 m) statue of a jackalope, and the town hosts an annual Jackalope Days Celebration in early June.



Jackalope Square, Douglas, Wyoming

(This image is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International](#) license.)

Since Herrick and his brother began selling manipulated taxidermy heads in the 1930s, such trophies, as well as jackalope postcards and related gift-shop items, can be found in many places beyond Douglas. The student magazine of the [Santa Fe University of Art and Design](#) in [New Mexico](#) is called *The Jackalope*. On the other side of the world, The Hop Factory craft beer cafe in [Newcastle, Australia](#), uses a leaping jackalope as its logo. In 1986, [James Abdnor](#), a senator from South Dakota, gave U.S. President [Ronald Reagan](#) a stuffed jackalope (rabbit head with antlers) during a presidential campaign stop in Rapid City.



Jackelope statue outside Wall, SD

Building on the Herrick's success, Frank English of [Rapid City, South Dakota](#) has made and sold many thousands of jackalopes since retiring from the [Air Force](#) in 1981. He is the only supplier of the altered animal heads to [Cabela's](#), a major outdoor-theme retail company. His standard jackalopes and "world-record" jackalopes sell for about \$150.

References to horned rabbits may originate in sightings of rabbits affected by the [Shope papilloma virus](#), named for Richard E. Shope, M.D., who described it in a scientific journal in 1933. Shope initially examined wild [cottontail rabbits](#) that had been shot by hunters in [Iowa](#) and later examined wild rabbits from [Kansas](#). They had "numerous horn-like protuberances on the skin over various parts of their bodies. The animals were referred to popularly as 'horned' or 'warty' rabbits." Legends about horned rabbits also occur in Asia and Africa as well as Europe, and researchers suspect the changes induced by the virus might underlie at least some of those tales. (Once again, scientists are trying to explain away the existence of proof that they exist. They did the same with Leprechauns, fairies, and the Little People who we all know still exist today.

In [Central America](#), mythological references to a horned rabbit creature can be found in [Huichol](#) legends. The Huichol oral tradition has passed down tales of a horned rabbit and of

the deer getting horns from the rabbit. The rabbit and deer were paired, though not combined as a hybrid, as [day signs](#) in the calendar of the [Mesoamerican](#) period of the [Aztecs](#), as twins, brothers, even the sun and moon.

Now, living where we do in the high desert of southern New Mexico, we have every opportunity to spot the elusive creature. It is most active during twilight ([crepuscular](#)) and during the night ([nocturnal](#)), but can be active during the day when conditions are favorable (heavy cloud coverage).

There will be times when dusk is falling or the sun is peeking up over the Florida's that you spot something moving quickly through the sage. And you could swear that you spotted a set of antlers and it's not a deer bedded down.

Nevertheless, I would hazard a guess that every one of you reading this article has at some point in their life either sent or received the infamous Jackelope postcard. I know I bought one as a child at a roadside tourist stop while passing through New Mexico AND treasured it. I, of course, like you, have sent them to all of my relatives, including my 90-year-old aunts. They loved them too!



*This article is partly plagiarized from Wikipedia and mostly lies made up by myself.  
Images stolen from Internet*

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## Communication

**WEBPAGE and FACEBOOK Administrator:** Pamm Reynolds: [nmpamm@gmail.com](mailto:nmpamm@gmail.com).

If you have information for the webpage please email it to Pamm. If you have information for Facebook please post on our page. We need items that pertain to our club or member activities to be posted including pictures of rocks found, experiences, reminders of meetings, suggestions of where to hunt, class info., etc. It's OUR page!

Website	<a href="http://www.thedgmsclub.com">www.thedgmsclub.com</a>
Facebook	Deming Gem and Mineral Society
YouTube Channel	

*Help us keep in touch with you.*

If your email has changed, please contact:  
Carolyn Abbey at [thedgms@gmail.com](mailto:thedgms@gmail.com)

If your membership information has changed you can mail changes to DGMS Membership,  
P.O. Box 1459, Deming, NM 88031 or email [thedgms@gmail.com](mailto:thedgms@gmail.com)

If you are interested in membership, come by the clubhouse to see what's going on. Looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones!

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## Upcoming Area Events:

Buena Vista Contin-tail, August 6-9, 2020, Colorado Rodeo Grounds, Buena Vista, Colorado.  
[www.bvrockshow.com](http://www.bvrockshow.com)

Woodland Park Rock, Gem, and Jewelry Show, August 13-16, 2020, 19250 E. US 24, Woodland Park, Colorado. [www.woodlandparkrockandgemshow.com](http://www.woodlandparkrockandgemshow.com) or [wpgemshow@outlook.com](mailto:wpgemshow@outlook.com)

Albuquerque Fall Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show 2020, October 2-4, Expo New Mexico, State Fairgrounds. ([www.abqfallshow.wixite.com/fairplay](http://www.abqfallshow.wixite.com/fairplay))

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**May Board Meeting tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, May 6 at 2:00  
pending Covid-19 restrictions**

**May General Meeting tentatively scheduled Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 2:00  
pending Covid-19 restrictions**

All members are invited

Our meetings are an opportunity to network about rocks, gems and minerals, to make some new acquaintances and friends and to find areas in which you can be involved. Please make others welcome. Some people need the friendship and knowledge only you can provide. We need everyone to make an effort this year to attend and participate. We don't want to be just a "field-trip club" or a "lapidary club." We have an important mission with important activities that depends on everyone's attendance and participation.

### Club Shop Hours

Monday – 9 a.m.- noon

Friday – 9 a.m. - noon

Saturday – 9 a.m.-noon

*Hours subject to change-check the board at the club*

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# Resources

## New Mexico State Parks Closures

Effective Immediately **The New Mexico statewide public health order has been extended through May 17th. In an effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and as directed by the Governor, the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) announces that in accordance with the Governor's most recent order, NM State Parks are closed through May 17th. Campsite reservations through April 30th will be canceled and camping fees refunded. Please see our FAQ page on State Parks closures. If you have additional questions about State Parks closures, please call 505-476-3355.**

[www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com)

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### Message from the Editor

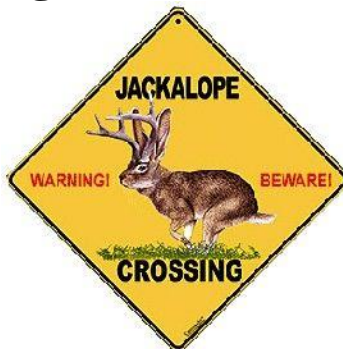
The worldwide COVID-19 Pandemic has begun to affect us all in ways we never could imagine. Both our President and the NM governor have implemented restrictions in response to health concerns and our club is trying to keep up with daily directives as we are made aware. Please continue to check your emails and our FB page and website for further updates from us. As we cease most of our club activities it becomes a time to focus on our own health and the health of others.

Stay busy! Network with others for encouragement and support. If you need assistance call or email the club! Life is a struggle for sure, but we are all working hard to endure and will overcome this.

That being said, hopefully next month's newsletter will have a brighter outlook and it won't be too long before we all get back in the field together. Take care!

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### Signs of the Times



I need to practice social distancing from the refrigerator.



Living dangerously at Walgreens

How are the stores sold out of bread....wasn't everyone on Keto like 5 minutes ago ??



2020 Easter Basket

I would take a trailer hitch to the shin for all this to be over.

The buttons on my jeans have started social distancing from each other

WHEN DOES SEASON 2 OF 2020 START? I DO NOT LIKE SEASON 1.

This newsletter is formatted for a computer and may appear differently on other media devices.



I know this. When this ends— AND IT WILL—every game will sell out, every restaurant will have a 2-hour wait, every kid will be glad to be in school, everyone will love their job, the stock market will skyrocket, every other house will get TP'd, and we'll all embrace and shake hands. That's gonna be a pretty good day.  
  
Hang in there, World.