



# A Special April Supplement of Footprints

## **The Gentle Art of Co-leading**

by "Go Slow, Homey"

When I first joined PVHC in mid-1998, I had just come from New York City, and I was a member of the "Singles and Sociables" AMC group in NYC. I really enjoyed chillin', jivin', and hikin' with those folks. Since I've been a member of PVHC, I've been promoting "the gentle art of co-leading" to our club. Well, I've been a member so long that I've forgotten why it was a "gentle" art. I guess it was because it was not a "hard" art, but that it was a "compassionately paced," or, therefore, gentle art.

Nevertheless, get out there and co-lead, you gentle and compassionately paced clubbies!

Let me tell you about my first co-leading experience with PVHC.  
See *Go Slow* continued on page 4

## **Aliens Encountered on Mt. Greylock**

by Kareem Remarkable

Aliens were spotted on February 13, 2016, on the summit of Mt. Greylock. They were quite surprised when confronted by a human journalist/photographer, who was also on the summit that day. They thought that no earthling in his right mind would actually be up there in those weather conditions. Well, they were wrong. The journalist was curious, and asked the aliens what they were doing up on the summit that day.

See *Aliens* continued on page 5

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*~ "Go Slow, Homey"*

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## Miss “Drops-a-Lot” Opens Up

by Humphrey Dunphey



Miss Drops-a-Lot

Gina G.’s unusual behavior is finally out in the open - she falls down or drops things on the trail “to get attention.” “I’m sorry,” she says, “but I can’t help myself - it’s a compulsive need that I have for attention-getting. My therapist said that my narcissistic, egocentric, self-indulgent behavior, dropping-a-lot, is related to my compulsive need for hiking-a-lot. Hiking brings out the best in me, and also evidently, the worst in me.” She goes on to say: “I’m really not aware of falling down or dropping things on the trail, like hiking poles, etc. I apologize if this detracts from your enjoyment of any hikes that I’m on with you.”

To stop encouraging this sort of behavior in our hiking club, a therapist advised employing the strategy of “planned ignoring.” That is, as much as possible, don’t recognize the behavior. When the attention-seeking behavior occurs, give no eye contact, no verbal or physical response to the person seeking attention. The idea behind this strategy is that by not rewarding and acknowledging this attention-seeking behavior, the behavior will eventually cease. Good luck!

— Humphrey Dunphey

## He’s a peak bagger, after all

by C. King Truth



Ricky B. comes clean

Ricky B. decided to come clean – he admits to charges from friends that he’s been a closet peak bagger, all along. Ricky B. confessed: “You know when I told you that I would go up to the top of the mountain and turn around 20 feet short of the summit, it never happened. I’ve got several lists going on right now, and once I finish those lists, I’m going to apply for all of the awards and patches that I can. I’m going to out-hike everybody in the club, including PaPa Smurf, and prove it to everyone that I’m PVHC’s best hiker. I was just trying to throw everyone off by casting peak bagging in a pejorative light. Hee-hee, I absolutely love peak bagging! Check!” said Ricky B. gleefully, “another peak down and off my list!” — C. King Truth

## Swimming Snakes Escape from “Rattlesnake Island” in Quabbin Reservoir

by Herbie Tologist

“For God’s sakes, snakes are everywhere,” says PVHC President Chip. “The other day, gol dang it, on my Monday morning hikes with PVHC, I nearly stepped on one. At every gate that PVHC hikes at, around Quabbin Reservoir, there are deadly snakes! The state has ruined it for us. I can no longer take hikers to Quabbin.” Chip tells us that the timber rattlesnakes escaped from “rattlesnake island” in the middle of Quabbin Reservoir where they were originally placed, and are now living entirely around the reservoir. They must have swum to shore, and are now firmly entrenched around the entire coastline of Quabbin. One PVHC member complained, “It’s not fair that the snakes get to swim in the reservoir, and yet, we can’t.”

— Herbie Tologist

**Gossip Column:** From the desk of Rona Barrett, the Keyhole Ferret

### Evidence Presented that Chip and Harry Cohabited, At One Time

Several years back, you would call Chip on the telephone, and if he was not home, or did not pick up the phone, you would get his answering machine. His phone message went something like this: “We are not home to take your message, please leave a message for Chip, or Harry.” This is proof positive that Chip and Harry were, at one time, cohabiting together, not that there’s anything wrong with that.

— Rona Barrett



Timber Rattlesnake





## PaPa Smurf Arrested for Illegal Activities in Wisconsin

by W. Gees Head



"The Church of Smurf"  
- The site of the alleged illegal activities

*"The Church of Smurf was turned into an alleged secret brewery and wine-making center. His so-called 'parishioners' would come every Saturday and Sunday, for so-called, 'church services.'"*

—W. Gees Head

PaPa Smurf (aka, the person with the initials of J.K., and I don't mean J.K. Rowling) was arrested in Wisconsin, on charges of illegal beer and wine production and distribution. PaPa Smurf started by making beer and wine in home batches in his basement. Later, he successfully made larger batches of both beer and wine in his alleged front, "The Church of Smurf." The Church of Smurf was turned into an alleged secret brewery and wine-making center. His so-called "parishioners" would come every Saturday and Sunday, for so-called, "church services." There, they would partake of beer and wine made illegally by the hand of PaPa Smurf. The authorities say that Mr. Smurf does not have the proper licenses for large-scale, beer and wine production and distribution. Smurf was quoted as saying: "I'm going to fight this, and take it all the way to the state and supreme courts, if I have to. If Jesus could turn water into wine, and beer, then so can I."

— W. Gees Head

**Go Slow** *continued from page 1*

I don't remember it too well, since it was so long ago, but friends tell me how it went. I co-led my first hike with a clubbie named John Simonet. Well, folks tell me that I was so busy talking with another clubbie on the trail, that John and the group went ahead of us. Since we, the other clubbie and I, were so slow, and involved in an amiable, chillin' conversation, John and the rest of the hikers had to wait for us. Well, we were so slow that we got lost from the rest of the group. And many of the hikers complained about my co-leading. That was my first co-leading experience with the club, so I'm told.

And that's how I got my nickname, "Go Slow, Homey."

-- "Go Slow, Homey"

*Aliens continued from page 1*



Amazingly, the one with the pointy head spoke English. He said: "My name is Al-ien Roamin', and we are roaming through your solar system looking for peaks to climb. I think you call it, 'peak bagging.' We come from the planet of Listeria in the nearby Andromeda Galaxy. In our world, we are called 'Listers.' You caught us hitting one of the 50 High Points in the United States. We are also working on the 100

Highest in New England, the Winter 48 in New Hampshire, and the Catskill 3500 Club list."

Al-ien Roamin' continued: "Proudly, we have many other lists throughout your solar system under our belts. One of our favorite climbs is Olympus Mons, the highest mountain and volcano in the solar system, on the planet Mars. The hike was 16 miles (24 kilometers) high, which makes it about three times higher than Mt. Everest. We'd like to thank a hiking club called PVHC! We first spotted that advertisement of a 'Highpointer Hike' in [the April 1, 2008, edition of PVHC's \*Footprints\*](#)."

Finally, Al-ien Roamin' boldly stated: "But, please don't call us 'peak baggers' – we are proudly called 'Listers.'"

The journalist thought to himself, it's amazing that of all the places in the universe, there was Al-ien Roamin', a Lister from the planet of Listeria, here on a highpointer hike on the summit of Mt. Greylock.

— Kareem Remarkable

*"We come from the planet of Listeria in the nearby Andromeda Galaxy. In our world, we are called 'Listers.' "*

*~ Al-ien Roamin'*



## Selected Hiking Quotes

"Getting to the top is optional. Getting down is mandatory."

— Ed Viesturs, *No Shortcuts to the Top: Climbing the World's 14 Highest Peaks*

"What on earth would I do if four bears came into my camp? Why, I would die of course. Literally shit myself lifeless."

— Bill Bryson, *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail*

"In Massachusetts and Vermont, there had been plenty of mosquitoes, but in New Hampshire, they had reinforcements."

— Jennifer Pharr Davis, *Becoming Odyssea: Epic Adventures on the Appalachian Trail*

"I like to hike in state parks, but one thing I can't stand is pants. So I don't wear any. My wallet is tube shaped. Can you guess where I keep it?"

— Jarod Kintz, *This Book Has No Title*

"At which point, at long last, there was the actual doing it, quickly followed by the grim realization of what it meant to do it, followed by the decision to quit doing it because doing it was absurd and pointless and ridiculously difficult and far more than I expected doing it would be and I was profoundly unprepared to do it."

— Cheryl Strayed, *Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail*

"In the course of all of the compass-spinning twists, roller coaster hills, and sphincter-contracting turns, I hadn't noticed that we had stopped at the top of a very large ridge. The beginning of the trail was not pleasant, inviting, or even remotely civil; it was recreational molestation at its best."

— Michael Gurnow, *Nature's Housekeeper*

**UPCOMING EVENTS AND THE USUALS**

- Every Mon. (MA) Mornings w/ Chip
- Every Tues. (MA) Mt. Tom & Mt. Holyoke w/ Lori
- Every Thurs. (MA) Afternoon walks w/ Ruth
- Every Thurs. (MA) Mornings w/ Harry & Ashley Reservoir evenings w/ Erin
- Apr 2 (MA) This one's too difficult — I wouldn't try it
- Apr 9 (CT) This one's for sissies
- Apr 16 (MA) Way too easy
- Apr 23 (MA) It's going to rain
- Apr 30 (NH) You wouldn't make it
- May 7 (?) Nothing planned
- May 14 (MA) This one's way too difficult for you, pal
- May 21 (MA) Best of luck!
- May 28 (MA) You're doing what?
- June 4 (?) Don't plan on it

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

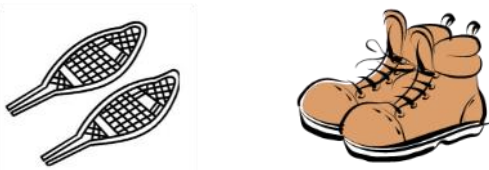
Next Club Meetings:  
 Apr. 5, 2016, 7 p.m. at **FBC**  
 May 3, 2016, 7 p.m. at **FBC**

***FBC - First Baptist Church, 337 Piper Road, West Springfield***

This issue of *Footprints* is dedicated to my Mentor-in-Jest, John "PaPa Smurf" Klebes, former *Footprints* Editor ~ Dick Lost & In the Forest

**\*\* Check out our web page at:**  
[www.pioneervalleyhikingclub.org](http://www.pioneervalleyhikingclub.org)

Members may join the PVHC Email List by sending a message to:  
[pvhc.hikingclub@gmail.com](mailto:pvhc.hikingclub@gmail.com)



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