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Home > The American Soul (and yours and mine): Closer to King-of-the-Hill? Or the Herndon Climb? And where do meteorologists fit in?

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## The American Soul (and yours and mine): Closer to King-of-the-Hill? Or the Herndon Climb? And where do meteorologists fit in?

Living on the Real World

### Living *on* the Real World

Asking:

- What kind of world is *likely* if we take no deliberate action?
- What kind of world do we *want*?
- What kind of world is *possible* if we act effectively?

An American Meteorological Society Project

*Okay, okay. So it's a long title.*

*Today's LOTRW post is the product of insomnia (writing started around 2 am). A lot of Americans are tossing and turning instead of sleeping well these days. This week's death of Senator-and-American-naval-hero John McCain has occasioned a near-universal sense of loss and soul-searching.*

*Sometimes soul-searching can use a bit of a frame. Here's one.*

**Wikipedia has this to say about King-of-the-Hill.** *a children's game, the object of which is to stay on top of a large hill or pile (or any other designated area) as the "King of the Hill". Other players attempt to knock the current King off the pile and take their place, thus becoming the new King of the Hill.*

*The way the "king" can be removed from the hill depends largely [largely? Only largely?] on the rules determined by the players before the game starts. Ordinarily pushing is the most common way of removing the king from the hill, but there are significantly rougher variations where punching or kicking is allowed. As such, the game is often banned from schools.*

**Contrast that with the Herndon climb.** We learn from the May 21, 2018 Washington Post:

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