

# Genesee Valley Hiking Club Newsletter



=====

## Executive Committee

- President: Larry O’Heron
- Vice President: Tom Kolankiewicz
- Secretary: Patty Mangarelli
- Treasurer: Nina Tracy
- Immediate Past President: Ann Bayley
- Membership: Michelle Barno
- Hiking: Derek Price
- Trails Maintenance: Ryan Bean
- Social: Iris Raiman
- Info Tech: Larry O’Heron
- Historian: Diane Fulkerson
- At-Large: Ruth Teitel (& Social Co-chair)
- At-Large: Alicia Collins

## Message from the President:

Fall is here. In this issue:

- Fall general membership meeting
- Praise for one of our Hike Leaders (Paul K)
- Hike Leader Appreciation Get-together in September
- Safety: Share the Woods

- Upcoming 100th Anniversary of GVHC
- Member Stories: Susan & the Blue Ridge Mountains
- Turn on Announcements from GVHC. Real-time updates to hiking events.
- Cleaning up the GVHC Membership Roster
- Upcoming changes to the Dues Policies and Implementation Via Meetup.com

Please read over for a sense of what the Executive Committee is solving, and what we are planning for the club to continue into a second 100-years.

## Newsletter Availability

Find this newsletter and earlier editions at: <https://gvhchikes.org/Newsletters.html>

=====

## 2024 Fall Get Together Annual Member Meeting

Save the date - Nov 17th from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Stewart Lodge, Mendon Ponds Park. The Social Committee (Iris R and Ruth T) are putting together this year's annual members' meeting.

Current plans have GVHC provide a choice of pasta-types, drinks and dessert.

Check your Nov./Dec. Hike schedule for details. And Remember to RSVP!

The Buffalo Bills do not play until 4:15 pm.

=====

## Ellison Park Hike Event

(Oct 20th, 2024)

Comment from Lisa H:

Had an amazing time at Ellison Park today! Huge thanks to Paul for hosting and keeping everything organized, and to Joe for sweeping and making sure no one got left behind. I really appreciate how supportive and friendly everyone is in this group – it makes the hikes so enjoyable. The sense of community and encouragement is something I always look forward to. It's great to be around such positive people who love nature as much as I do. Can't wait for the next hike with you all!



=====

## Support GVHC

Genesee Valley Hiking Club (GVHC) events are free, but we do ask that you consider a small donation.

Donations help support administrative costs, the costs of the meetup site and rental of a lodge or other facility for a picnic or winter event.

We have our 100th anniversary coming up in 2028. Expenses to accommodate digitizing all that history are expected to be substantial.

Please see:

<https://gvhchikes.org/JoinUs.html>

=====

## Hike Leader Appreciation Get-Together

Story and photos -- Ruth T

On September 7, the GVHC Hike Leader ThankYou Party took place at Ferrari's Pizza Bar in East Rochester.





Leaders enjoyed their fill of pizza, salad, and beer!

This year there was also a paper plate award ceremony acknowledging a few of our terrific leaders.



Would you like to be invited to our next Leader Party?

Just sign up to lead 2 or more GVHC hikes over the course of this coming year (September '24–September '25 ) and you'll get an invite.

— Iris & Ruth ( GVHC —social committee )



Our most dedicated leader, Derek Price, led over 32 hikes throughout the past year. Amazing!



My personal thanks to Iris R and Ruth T for the great things they do as Social Committee ... Larry O, GVHC President

=====

## GVHC 100th Anniversary Update

**Project Scope:** Genesee Valley Hiking Club (GVHC) was created in 1928 and in four (4) years we will celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The club has a collection of materials that chronicle the history of GVHC, housed at the Rochester Museum and Science Center (RMSC). A subcommittee is working with RMSC to identify materials from the collection that will highlight and tell the history of the club.

The first phase is identifying materials from each decade of GVHC’s history to create articles, displays, and digital works to highlight the history of GVHC to the local community.

For the second phase we will work with RMSC staff to identify a vendor who can digitize the scrapbooks and photo albums in the collection.

**Needed Resources:** Identify possible sources of funding and obtain donations to complete the second phase of the project.

The subcommittee will identify the methods for sharing our collection for our anniversary celebration: for example, an article in *Rochester History*, a traveling exhibit, website, and a WXXI Rochester Story.

### Next Steps:

- Continue to work with RMSC archive staff to use material from the collection for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- Determine if there are additional materials that should be added to the collection such as slides or home movies by members while on hiking trips.

- Work with RMSC staff to identify a possible vendor or vendors to digitize materials for preservation.

=====

( From NYS DEC email of 21 Oct 2024, 11:04 a.m. Edited to remove links. )

## Share the Woods: Both Hunters and Hikers Recreate on Public Lands

With hunting seasons underway and fall hiking still at its peak, DEC is encouraging outdoor enthusiasts to follow safety precautions while recreating this fall and winter. Whether you are a hiker, nature photographer, leaf peeper, mountain biker, hunter, or trapper, following a few simple safety measures can make your experience as safe as possible this season.

Tips for both hikers and hunters afield this fall:

1. Tell someone where you’re going and when you’re planning to return. If your plans change, notify them.
2. Dress for the weather; account for both location and elevation changes.
3. Become familiar with the trail you plan on hiking or the area you plan on hunting.
4. Wear bright clothing; blaze orange or blaze pink. Bright colors allow others to see you more easily and from farther away

Hikers should be aware that they may meet hunters bearing firearms or archery equipment while hiking on trails. Hunters are fellow outdoor recreationists and hunting occurs on most DEC lands. Though hunters use firearms and bows, hunting is

exceptionally safe and accidents are extremely rare. This is a testament to DEC's robust hunter safety program and hunters' conscientiousness and care.



*(AI gen'd, stock photo - StockCake.com)  
As the sun sets and twilight embraces the woods, a group of friends finds warmth and companionship around a crackling campfire. The evening air is filled with laughter and conversations. The canopy of string lights adds a touch of whimsy to the natural setting. Everyone is relaxed, basking in the glow of the fire and the intimate atmosphere of this outdoor retreat.*

If you decide to adventure with your pet, make sure to keep them on a leash. Loose

pets can cause problems with other recreation-minded folks and can get into trouble with wild animals. Also, to make pets more identifiable in the woods, give them a brightly colored collar, leash, or other covering.

DEC maintains hiking trails and permits hunting in many areas of Forest Preserve lands in the Adirondack and Catskill Parks, as well as in State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Unique Areas. Find a place near you by visiting our website → <https://dec.ny.gov/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEndeX0p1KU>

=====

## Member Stories

Susan T: Spent a weekend last winter with my son, grandkids—and even the grand dog—hiking several trails in Georgia's Blue Ridge Mountains.

Being active outdoors is so good for the body, spirit, and especially family bonding!



Susan, Son Adam and River



( Susan, grandchildren Sadie and Hudson, and River )



=====

## Turn on GVHC Announcements in Meetup.com

Meetup.com provides a quick, simple way for club officers and hike leaders to reach everyone, **who has enabled email announcements.**

We plan to send out the 2-month hiking schedules via Meetup.com announcements, rather than relying on the archaic individualized email addresses.

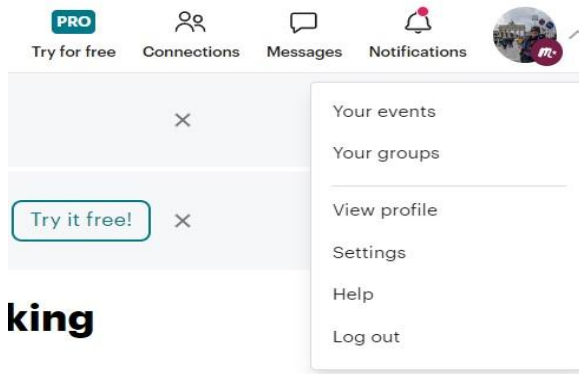
If you have questions, you can reach out to us at [gvhchikes.org](http://gvhchikes.org).

Unfortunately we can not provide a specific set of steps as browsers vary from each



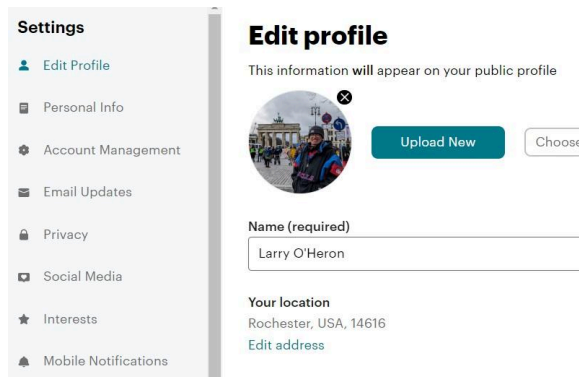
other and then again from platform to platform, e.g. laptop vs iPhone vs Android phone.

Window laptop / Chrome browser instructions follow:

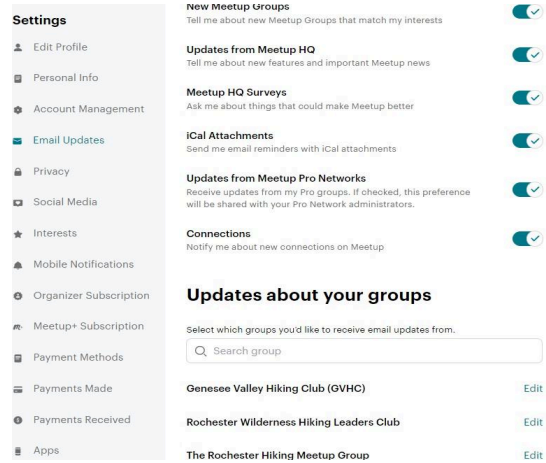


king

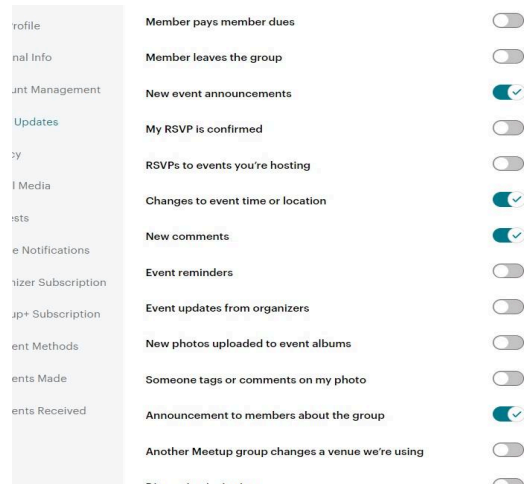
Step 1: Login to Meetup. Click on your avatar in the upper right-hand corner. Click on Settings.



Step 2: On the left-hand side, click on Email Updates.



Step 3: Under Updates about your Groups, click on Genesee Valley Hiking Club.



Step 4: Enable New Event Announcements and Announcements to Members About the Group.



## GVHC Cleaning-up Meetup Membership

Members of the Working Committee on Club Dues have removed members from the Meetup Group (not the club) who have not visited the GVHC Meetup.com landing page or attended an event since Jan 1, 2023.

We removed approximately 4800 inactive memberships, reducing group membership to just above 2000 members.

If you have not received emails detailing progress to date, you should check your settings with Meetup.com GVHC.

=====

## Changes to GVHC Dues in 2025

Since January of this year, the Working Committee on Club Dues Migration Project conducted a deep-dive into the advantages and disadvantages of using the dues paying abilities of MeetUp.com.

After investigating numerous edge cases, In May of this year, the Working Committee recommended migrating dues paying from Paypal services to the Meetup platform. The Executive Committee voted on the proposals of the Working Committee: 11 in favor and 1 absent.

We can waive dues for select members, such as hike leaders, and persons of long-term commitment to the club.

On the rare occasion of inability to use the Meetup.com platform, members will be

required to pay by check with the inherent limitations of the current system.

## History

The committee identified the cumbersome current process of handling member dues, which had frequent lag time between paying dues and being registered, due to many manual hand-offs of information.

Frequent problems included:

- Typo errors in handwritten email addresses
- Member having different email addresses between Paypal and Meetup
- Extreme time lags between the hike leader being handed cash and the treasurer depositing the payment.

## Timeline Changes for Existing GVHC Meetup Members

1 Jul 2024: Club suspends dues collection. Hides Paypal link on [gvhchikes.org](http://gvhchikes.org). The Donation link remains in place.

1 July 2024 - 1 Nov 2024: Remove members on GVHC Meetup who have neither participated in an event since 1 Jan 2023 nor visited the GVHC landing page on Meetup.com since 1 Jan 2023..

1 Nov 2024: Turn on "Dues Required" in the GVHC Meetup Group. Members will have 60 days to evaluate whether they want to be a member.

2 Nov 2024: Meetup will begin prompting for members to enter payment information. It will not be required to do so until the start of the New Year.



2 Nov - 31 Dec 2024: Members will receive periodic prompts to enter payment information, if not done yet. Note: dues are not required yet.

1 Jan 2025: Meetup will require and charge **\$10.00 annual** dues to the members for whom the 60-day trial period has expired and have entered payment information. For those who have exceeded 60 days and not provided info, they will not be able to sign-up for a hike and/or see detailed information.

### Timeline for New GVHC Meetup Members (after 1 Nov 2024)

From the day they request to join GVHC on Meetup, they will have 60 days to evaluate whether they want to be a member or not.

They will be prompted to enter credit card information, although it will not be required yet.

At the end of the 60-day trial period, Meetup will require credit card info. The payment of **\$10.00** dues will be automatically made.

### Special Circumstances

The GVHC Meetup Group co-organizers have the ability to waive dues for select members, such as hike leaders, board members, persons of long-term commitment to the club and the rare occasion of inability to use the Meetup.com platform, which case members will be required to pay by check with the inherent limitations of the current system.

### Wrap-up

Please bear with us as we slowly evolve into the new process.

We are hoping for a smoother membership process, respect for the time of the Finance and Membership people and smoother club management.

--- Larry O'Heron, GVHC President

=====

### End of Newsletter