Genesee Valley Hiking Club Newsletter

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Message from the President:

I have heard from several GVHC attendees about confusion related to GVHC dues collection vía Meetup and other Meetup related products.

This special issue is to help members distinguish between GVHC dues processing vía Meetup, and other Meetup products which you may have seen advertisements for when RSVPing to GVHC hikes. These other Meetup products are:

1. **Meetup+**
2. **Meetup Organizer and Pro**
3. **Meetup Connections**

You may decide for yourself to purchase or subscribe to a Meetup product, *but that will be underlined independent of being a GVHC member.*

Personally, I enjoy using Meetup Organizer, but that was a personal choice. It has nothing to do with also being a GVHC member.

I do not subscribe to Meetup+, Meetup Connections, or Meetup Pro.

On the following pages, you'll find explanations of these three Meetup products.

We also have important information on:
- On-going changes to GVHC dues vía Meetup, and
- how to receive announcements from the club through Meetup. We are switching to Meetup announcements to ease the admin burden of maintaining email lists.
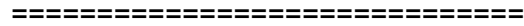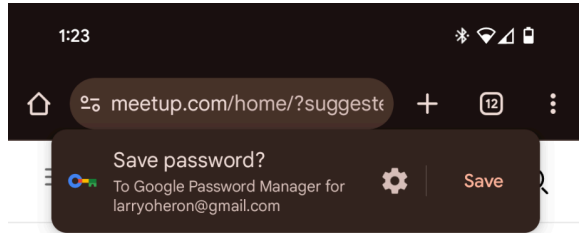
Respectfully,

Larry OHeron, President GVHC
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Newsletter Availability

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

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1. Meetup +
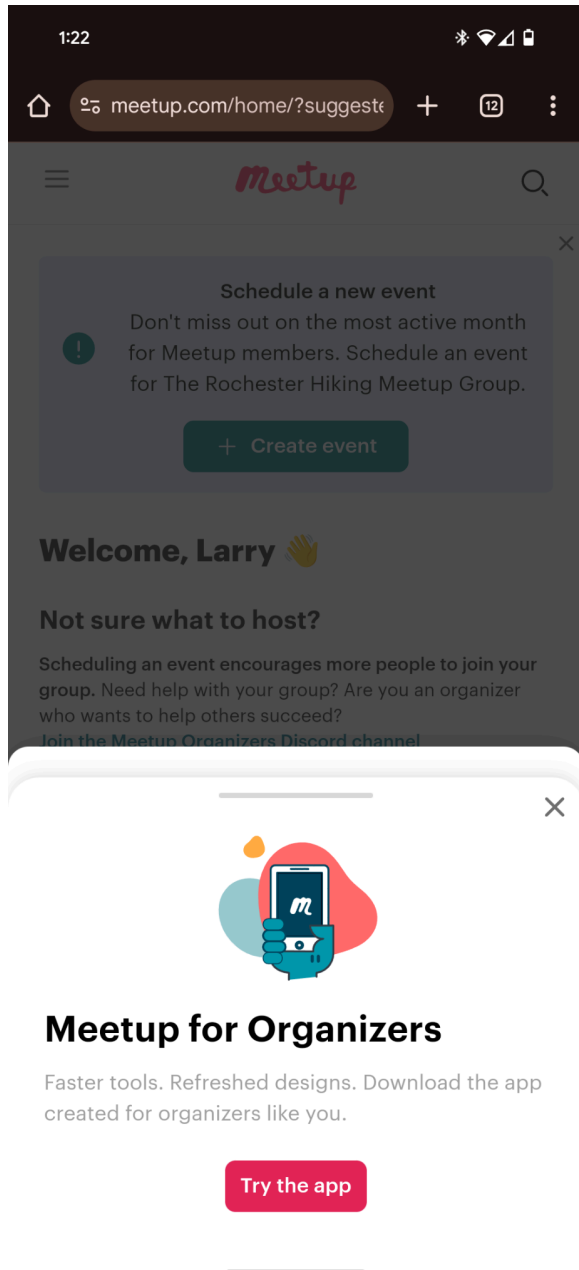

(Description comes from Meetup itself)

Meetup+ (formerly Member+) is the latest development in our decades-long project of helping people keep connected. This new monthly subscription will allow members to join an elite cohort of the most dedicated Meetup members.

It also opens up access to a whole suite of exciting features and benefits, some previously offered only to organizers, and others brand new. Learn more about what makes Meetup+ so special, how it's going to amplify community togetherness, and how you can subscribe today.

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2. Meetup Organizer and Meetup Pro

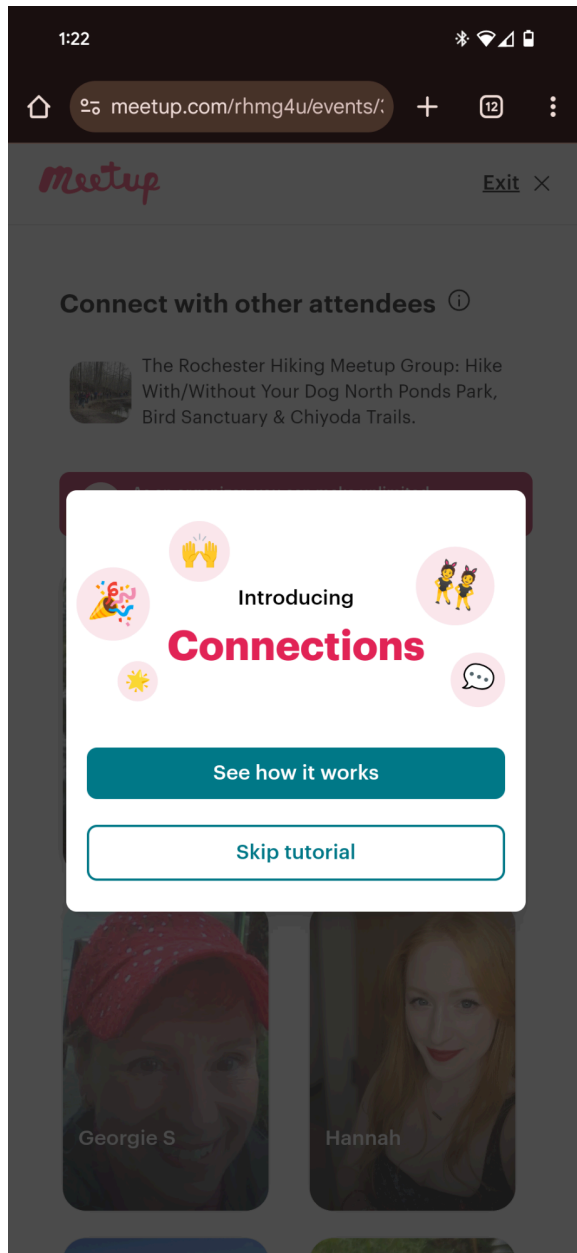(Description was AI-generated in Chrome)

A meetup organizer is an individual who actively creates and manages a group on a platform like Meetup, where they plan and host events centered around a shared interest, bringing together people with similar passions to connect, learn, and network in person.

Key responsibilities of a meetup organizer include:

- Identifying topics and speakers: Selecting relevant topics and finding qualified speakers to present at events.
- Venue selection and booking: Finding suitable locations to host meetups.
- Event promotion and marketing: Reaching potential attendees through online platforms and other channels to build a strong group.
- Managing logistics: Handling registration, RSVPs, event details, and any necessary payments.
- Community building: Fostering a positive and inclusive atmosphere within the meetup group.
- Communication with members: Regularly updating attendees with event information and keeping them engaged.

Meetup Pro is a more powerful toolset for Meetup Organizers. If you are not an organizer, you have no need for Meetup Pro.

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3. Meetup Connections

(Description comes from Meetup.com)

As one of the most searched terms on a platform with more than 60 million members, friendship is a core value at Meetup. Connections is the brand new, innovative feature that will make it easier than ever to foster member-to-member friendships.

Imagine you check out a Meetup event and you wind up hitting it off with a particular attendee. By taking advantage of Connections, you and this other Meetup member will be able to stay in touch online, and continue developing that new connection into a friendship by inviting each other to future events!

Learn more about Connections, and discover the powerful role it will play in facilitating friendships and supporting Meetup's mission to bring people together.

The Connections feature is a contact list of people you'd like to stay in touch with and attend future events with. There are some special aspects of Connections that make it different from a friend request on Facebook, for example.

The new Connections feature is only prompted after you attend an event. Within 24 hours of whatever activity you participate in, you'll be given the opportunity to "connect" with people who also attended the same event.

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Changes to GVHC Dues in 2025

In January of 2024, 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. The Executive Committee recommended 11 in favor and 1 absent to migrate dues paying from Paypal services to the Meetup platform.

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 July 2024: Club suspended dues collection..

1 Nov 2024: Turned on "Dues Required" in the GVHC Meetup Group.

2 Nov - 31 Dec 2024: Members have 60 days to evaluate whether they want to be a member. Meetup prompts members to enter payment information. It will not be required to do so until the start of the New Year.

1 Jan 2025: Meetup requires and charges **$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, GVHC Members 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, in 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.

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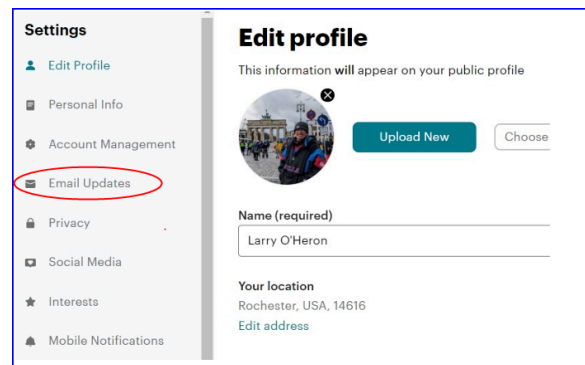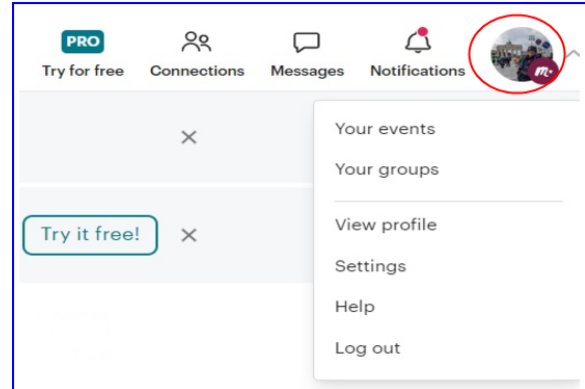
Turn on GVHC Announcements in Meetup.com

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 vía Meetup.com announcements, rather than relying on the archaic individualized email addresses.
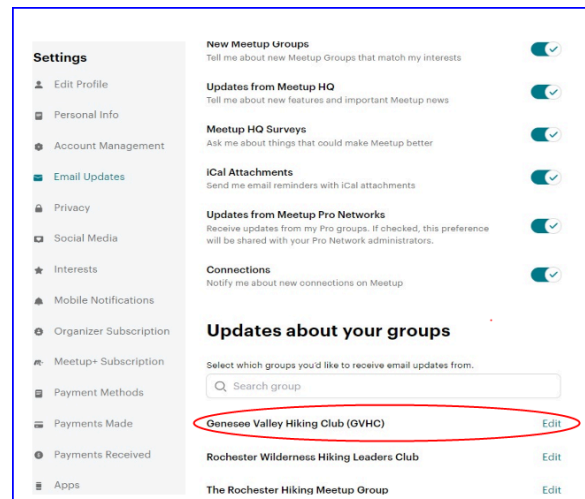
If you have questions, you can reach out to us at gvhchikes.org.

Unfortunately we can not provide a specific set of steps as web browsers vary slightly from each other as well as across the various types of computing platforms, e.g. Window PC vs Mac vs iPhone vs Android phone. However, the following screenshots show how to enable announcements for the GVHC using a **Windows laptop running the Chrome browser:**
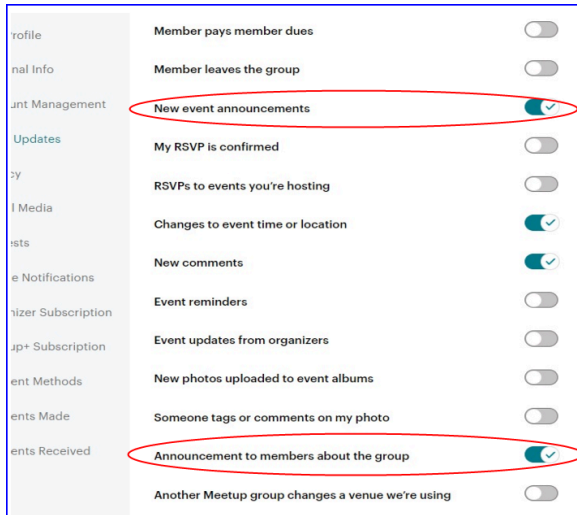
Step 1: Login to Meetup. Click on your avatar in the upper right-hand corner. Click on Settings.

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.

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End of Newsletter