

# Genesee Valley Hiking Club Newsletter

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## 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 / March of Time: Diane Fulkerson
- At-Large: Ruth Teitel (& Social Co-chair)
- At-Large: Alicia Collins

## Message from the President:

Fall is here. In this issue:

- We have a Hike-Leader Appreciation Event planned for September.
- 100th Anniversary Update
- Upcoming 100th Anniversary of GVHC
- Discuss the rationale on why the Executive Committee changed the dues process.
- Provide the steps in Meetup.com for the GVHC to enable email announcements from the club, e.g. changes to hiking events, or the two month schedule (for club members)

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.

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## Newsletter Availability

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

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## 2024 Fall Get Together Annual Member Meeting

Save the date - Nov 17th from noon to two p.m. The Social Committee (Iris R and Ruth T) are putting together our annual members’ meeting.

Current plans are considering having GVHC provide a selection of deli meats and cheeses, drinks and desserts.

More info on food and drink arrangements will be put out as we come closer to Nov 17th.

The location is Stewart Lodge in Mendon Ponds Park.

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

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## 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>

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## Hike Leader Appreciation Get-Together

Hike Leader Appreciation: Save the date at Ferrari's Pizza Bar (private room) for Saturday, September 7th at 5:00PM. Pizza and salad party for all hike leaders.

LEADERS → **You should have received an email** for an invitation! (If not, reach out to Iris R or Ruth T - social cmte). And remember to RSVP!

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## 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.

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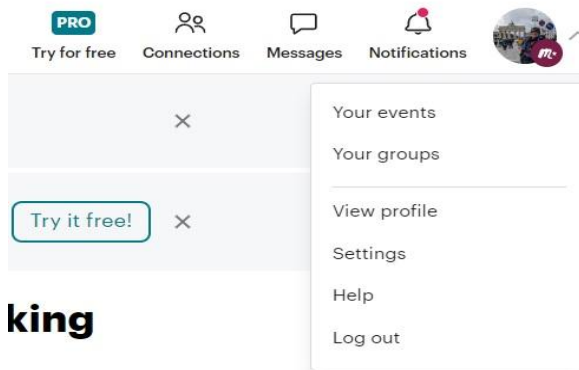
# Turn on GVHC Announcements in Meetup.com

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

Here are instructions (Window laptop and Chrome browser) and images to guide you.

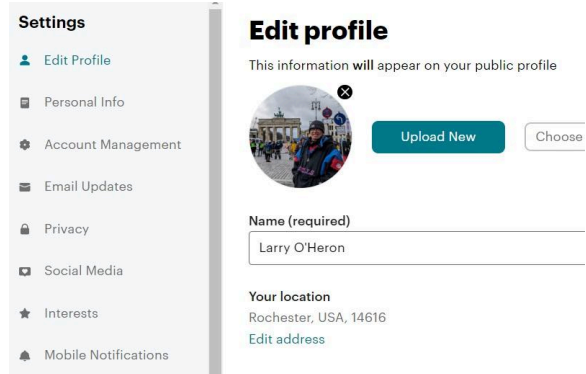
In particular, we plan to start sending out the 2-month hiking schedules via Meetup.com announcements, rather than relying on the archaic individualized email addresses.

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

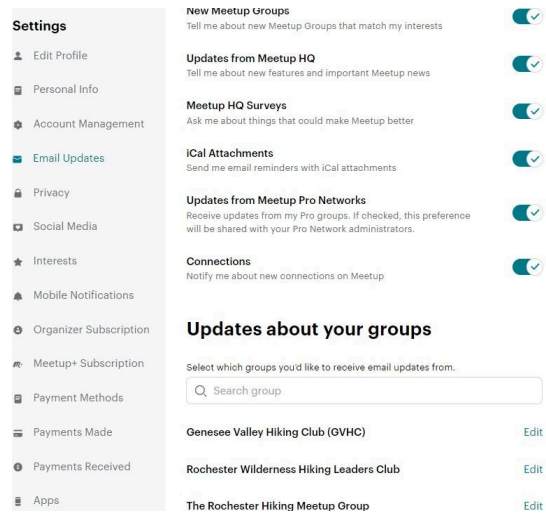


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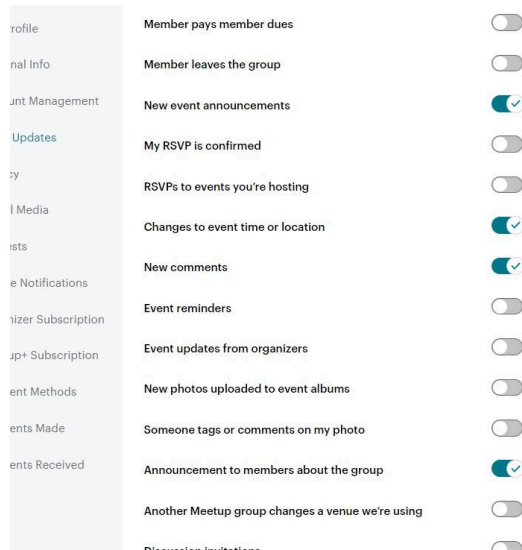
**Step 1: Login to Meetup. Click on your avatar in the upper right-hand corner. Click on Settings.**



**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 Group Membership

In a nutshell, members of the executive committee have been removing members from the Meetup Group (not the club) who have not visited the GVH Meetup.com group landing page or attended an event since Jan 1, 2023.

To date, approximately 4800 inactive memberships have been removed, reducing group membership from almost 7000 to just above 2000 members.

At this point, we believe we have accomplished all that we can.

As a sidenote, we have just under 200 dues paying members for Genesee Valley Hiking

Club, which is the organization that sponsors the Genesee Valley Hiking Group on Meetup.com.

If we have further actions to take, we will notify members via the Meetup.com group messaging capabilities.

If you have not received emails detailing progress to date, you should check your settings with Meetup.com GVHG to ensure that you have elected to receive group messages from Genesee Valley Hiking Club.

### 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 receiving the dues payment.

## Timeline Changes for ***Existing*** GVHC Meetup Members

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

1 Jul 2024 - 1 Nov 2024: Remove members on GVHC Meetup who have neither participated in an event since 1 Jan 2023 nor visited the GVHG 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** 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.

## 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