

# Genesee Valley Hiking Club Newsletter



Important Note: We have received several queries on how to enter credit card info for GVHC annual dues.

Underneath the logo on the main page for GVHC is a small rectangle that says "in free trial." If you click that, it gives you a place to fill in your credit card for automatic renewal in January. Hope that helps.



## Genesee Valley Hiking Club (GVHC)

Rochester, NY, USA  
2,235 members · Public group  
Organized by Larry O'Heron and 7 others

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60 trial days left

## 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:

Winter is here. In this issue:

- Fall general membership meeting
- Finger Lakes Trail Connect Info
- Hike Leader Checklist : AI-generated audio dialog
- Dan Buerkl's Trip to Antarctica
- Upcoming 100th Anniversary of GVHC
- Tips for Hiking at Age 70
- Turn on Announcements from GVHC. Real-time updates to hiking events.
- 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.

If you are still deciding whether to support GVHC with dues, the two-month schedule is only available to dues-paying members. By the time you read this, the 2025 January & February schedules will be in the hands of paid-up GVHC members.

## Newsletter Availability

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

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# 2025 Winter Get-Together

February 16/Sunday, 12:00-1:30 p.m:  
 Stewart Lodge, Mendon Ponds Park,  
 Menu: Variety of Soups and Breads. If interested in bringing a pot of soup to share, please call Ruth 472-6327 or Iris 334-0972. Save your receipts! GVHC will reimburse \$\$ spent on soup ingredients. GVHC will supply breads, drinks, and dessert.  
 LAST DAY TO RSVP (on Meetup) by February 12th.  
 Event sign-up should be available around the 1st of February.

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# 2024 Fall Get Together

On Nov 17th from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Stewart Lodge, Mendon Ponds Park. The Social Committee (Iris R and Ruth T) put together 2024's annual members' meeting.

Through their hard work, GVHC provided a choice of pasta-types, drinks and dessert.





Barbara Frost and Nancy Allen (representing the Quilts of Valor Foundation) presented Navy veteran Ron Mercel with a hand-crafted quilt, honoring his service.



Next up, Larry O reviewed the Exec Cmte's decisions regarding changes in the club's dues policy.

1. The existing system with the physical handoff / paypal / meetup interface is error-prone, e.g. mismatched emails, missed hand-offs of checks between hike leaders and the treasurer, and infrequent checking of the Post Office box, leading often to members not receiving schedules,
2. The cumbersome system would make it hard to find a volunteer to take over the position in the future.
3. Meetup provides behind the scenes features for administration of the club that ease communication and hike schedule emailing.
4. Meetup's ability to forward emails to those subscribed to announcements is strongly suggested for members, especially with the winter season upon us. Hike leaders are encouraged to communicate hike updates real-time through this system.

With the official business out of the way, the meeting ended at 12:30 with an invitation from our Social Committee to enjoy the catered Italian food.

Following photos by John T





## Finger Lakes Trail Connect Series

FLT Connect is a FREE series of workshops and presentations designed to educate, inspire, and connect trail users. Unless otherwise noted, all FLT Connect events are conducted via ZOOM.

Find more info at this link:

[Connect Series](#)

If the link does not work, copy and past the following into your browser address bar:

<https://fingerlakestrail.org/whats-happening/special-events/fltconnect/>

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## GVHC Hike Leader's Checklist (Audio)

Vice-President Tom K created this audio file, using an AI tool that he found.

This "audio version of our checklist" is really quite remarkable when you realize that, what sounds like two morning radio talk show hosts bantering back and forth about the highlights of the GVHC Hike Leader Checklist, are really two non-human AI agents.

It's a rather large audio file so it does take some time to load.

[AI Generated Dialog](#)

Iris R arranged for fun Euchre playing, following the eats.

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Iris R and Ruth T for all their hard work.

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If the link does not work, copy and paste the link below into your browser bar:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K0zAFFJvc2\\_1cb7IJ1XxPMbbxmioVJz/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K0zAFFJvc2_1cb7IJ1XxPMbbxmioVJz/view)

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### Training Available via ADK

The Adirondack Mountain Club (adk.org) offers the below training to its hike leaders. Feel free to take a look.

### Leave No Trace

LNT is a set of ethics to promote conservation of the outdoors.

[Leave No Trace Training](#)

### Sexual Harassment

Hiking should be a place for all to enjoy the outdoors without fear of being made uncomfortable.

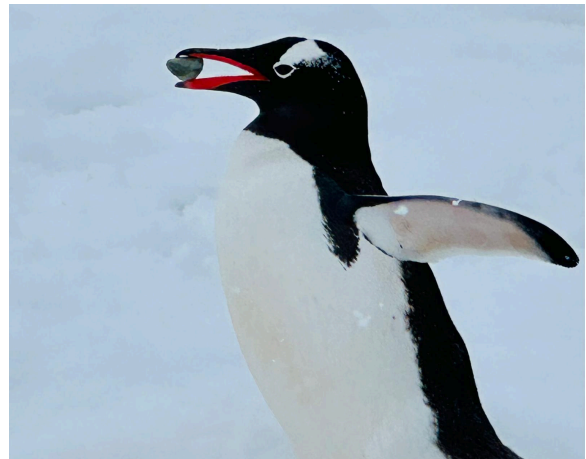
[Sexual Harassment Prevention Training](#)

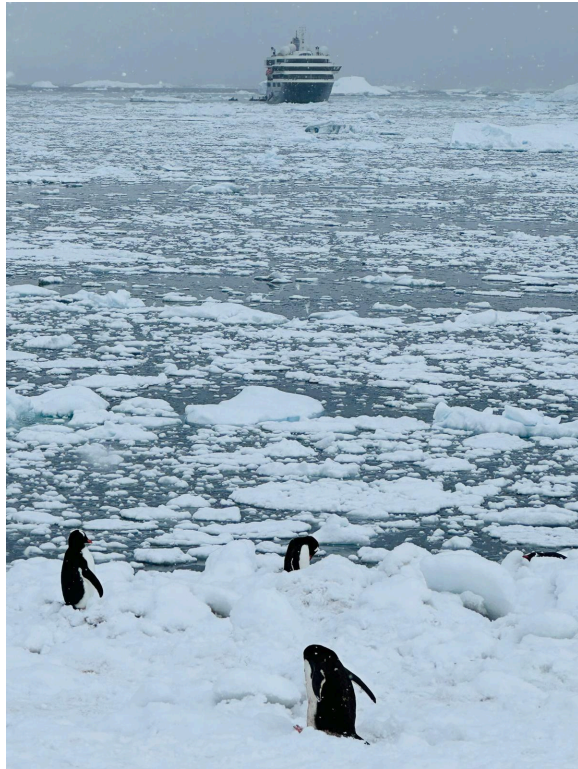
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## Member Stories



Member Dan Buerkle recently returned from a trip to Antarctica.





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## Hiking at Age 70

Enjoy the following youtube video from [Hiker Haigh](#). It is just over 7 minutes, and he has a nice friendly style.

[Hiking Safely At 70: Seven-Tips and Hiking Gear for Older Hikers](#)



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## Change to GVHC Web Address

As part of the migration from our club more fully using the Meetup functionality, the base web address was changed to reflect our Meetup name changing from “Group” to “Club”

It appears that Meetup maintains both the old web address and the new web address. I have a bookmark of the old “Genesee Valley Hiking Group” and the new name “Genesee Valley Hiking Club”. They both work at time of releasing this newsletter.

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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

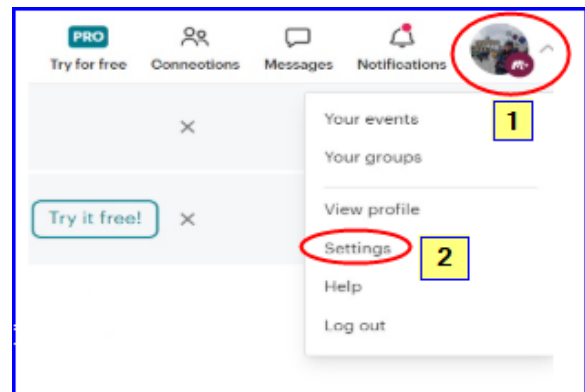
Meetup.com provides a quick, simple way for club officers and hike leaders to reach everyone, **who has enabled email announcements.**

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).

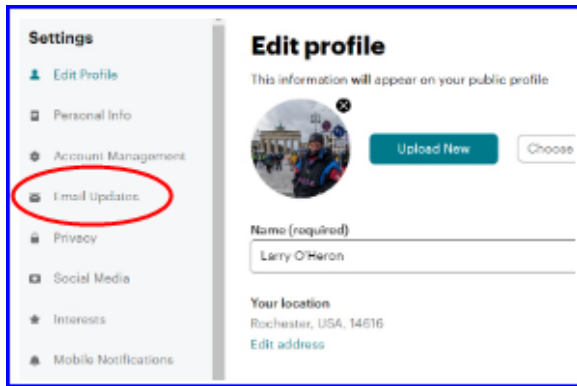
Unfortunately we can not provide a specific set of steps as browsers vary from each other and then again from platform to platform, e.g. laptop vs iPhone vs Android phone.

Window laptop / Chrome browser instructions follow:

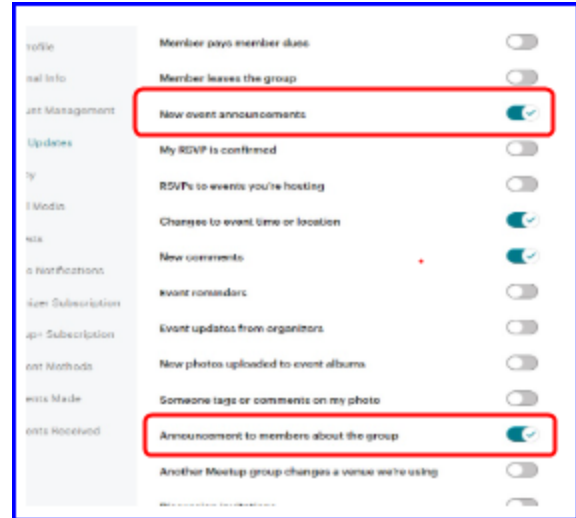


Step 1: Login to Meetup. Click on your avatar in the upper right-hand corner. Click on Settings.

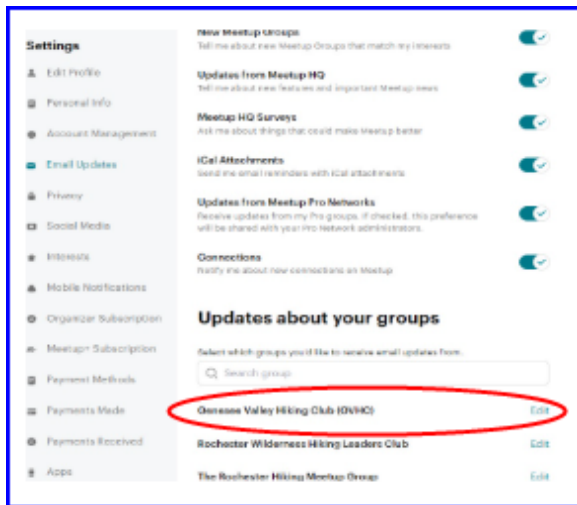




Step 2: On the left-hand side, click on Email Updates.



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



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

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## GVHC Dues in 2025

During 2024 the executive committee overhauled the process of handling member dues. It suffered frequent complaints of not receiving hiking schedules and 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.

Prior to 1 Jan 2025, we waived dues for select members, such as hike leaders, and persons of long-term commitment to the club.

On the occasion of inability or no desire to use the Meetup.com platform, members will be required to pay by check with the inherent limitations of the current system.

We will no longer accept cash due to long delays between handing money to the hike leader and then the money finally getting to the club treasurer for deposit in the bank account.

### Timeline for GVHC Meetup Members

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

- Members had 60 days to evaluate whether they wanted to be a member.

2 Nov - 31 Dec 2024:

- Members received periodic prompts to enter payment information, if not done yet.
- New members started their 60 days from date of signup.

1 Jan 2025: From this date forward, Meetup charges (at the end of the 60-day trial period) **\$10.00 annual** dues. For those who exceeded 60 days and not provided info, they will no longer be able to sign-up for a hike and/or see detailed information.

### 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

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## End of Newsletter