

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 OHeron
- Historian: Diane Fulkerson
- At-Large: Ruth Teitel (& Social Co-chair)
- At-Large: Alicia Collins

Message from the President:

Spring is right around the corner. In this issue:

- Trail Maintenance Events
- Some GVHC History
- Update Meetup Name
- Feb 2025 Winter Get Together
- Hiking Machu Picchu presentation

- Change to GVHC Meetup browser web address
- Update credit card info
- Update on dues via Meetup
- Arthur Parker & GVHC
- Turn on real-time email announcements to GVHC events

The two-month schedule is only available to dues-paying members.

Newsletter Availability

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



TRAIL MAINTENANCE EVENTS

Ryan B is our Trail Maintenance Coordinator for GVHC. He leads our external efforts to support the hiking community by leading trail maintenance hikes on the Finger Lakes Trail.

This is GVHC’s opportunity to give back to the hiking world. For all the beauty that we

enjoy on the wonderful trails in the area, someone has to step forward and keep the trails ready to enjoy.

This year’s trail maintenance hikes are on:

May 3rd, June 21st and Aug 9th.

These are GVHC events and will be listed on our Meetup page. You will find more info on the event listing regarding clothing, gear, tools, etc.

The Exec Cmte has authorized a small reward for those who participate in trail maintenance. GVHC will cover a portion of the post-event lunch.

Thanks in advance for your support.

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Some GVHC History

(From an articler found by Ann B. Bolding added by editor.)

Reprinted from the Finger Lakes Trail News, Fall 2009

History of the Finger Lakes Trail 1962–2002 The Early Years: Part 1 of 5 by Tom Reimers

“A Brief History of the Finger Lakes Trail” was written by Tom Reimers in 1992 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Finger Lakes Trail System.

It was updated in 2002 for the 40th anniversary. The following article is the first of five based upon these documents.

In the summer of 1961 Wallace D. Wood of Rochester, New York, hiked portions of the Appalachian and Long Trails in Vermont. It occurred to him that a similar trail system might be possible in New York. He presented the idea to the **Genesee Valley Hiking Club**, and a committee was formed to investigate prospects for cooperation of regional outdoor clubs to build a long-distance trail in New York. A meeting of 12 people was held in Rochester in November 1961 to discuss the idea of a trail system.

(edited here)

It was agreed at a meeting of trail organizers in 1961 that they would build a new trans-New York hiking trail across the scenic southern ends of the Finger Lakes to connect hiking trails in Allegany State Park with those in the Catskills. The precise route of the main FLT was left for the local clubs to decide. Spur trails to spots of similar interest not on line of the main trail also were to be built or included in the FLT System.

In 1962 the FLTC accepted sponsor ships for 70 miles of the main FLT each from the Cayuga Trails Club and Foothills Trail Club. Soon after, spon sorships by **the Genesee Valley Hiking Club**, the Adirondack Mountain Club-Onondaga Chapter, and the Cornell University Outing Club were presented to the Board of Managers and approved.

(article continues)

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Update Meetup Name

Help us find your membership more quickly

For those folks who have a meetup name like “Larry”, we are asking you to make it a bit more personal, e.g. “Larry Hiker”.

If we can't tell which one of the several identical Meetup names presented to us that you are, we can not help you solve problems.

Please include a picture on your avatar of yourself (face preferred, but full body photo acceptable). Again, it is about identifying you to help resolve a problem.

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Feb 2025 Winter Get Together

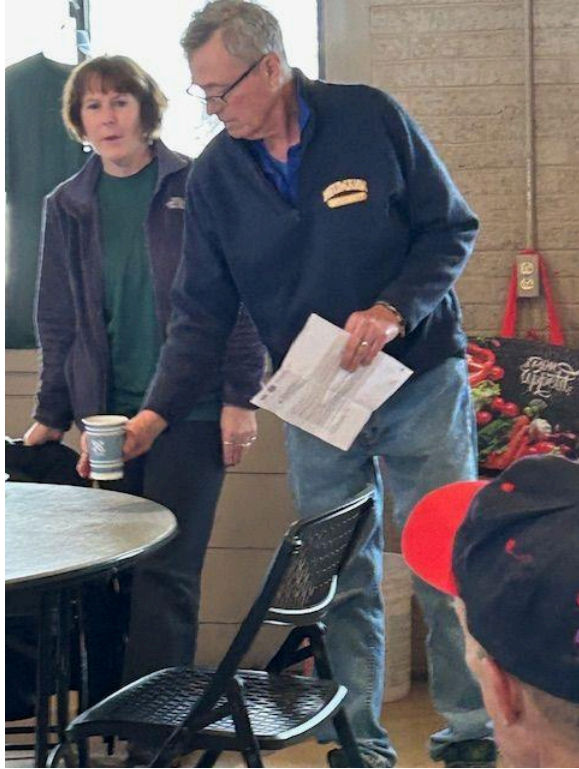
Our thanks to the Social Committee (Iris R and Ruth T) for putting together a great time on a really challenging weather day. For those of us who made it there, the soups were hot, the desserts good and the camaraderie engaging.

Although the weather was a bit of drag, due to snow and ice on the roads, nothing beats bad weather like the opportunity to sit around a fireplace, and chat with good people.

As much as we are about nature and the outdoors, we also take the time to share a bit of ourselves with others.

(Photos courtesy of Ruth T)











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Member Stories

Hiking Machu Picchu

Our club Secretary (Patty M) will be presenting at the ADK monthly meeting.

The meeting is open to all. Arrive a bit early as these events are well attended.

She will talk about Hiking Machu Picchu.

Date/Time : March 12th at 7:30 p.m.
 Location : Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center

For more info: (<https://adk-gvc.org/our-chapter/monthly-program2-2/>)

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Change to GVHC Web Address

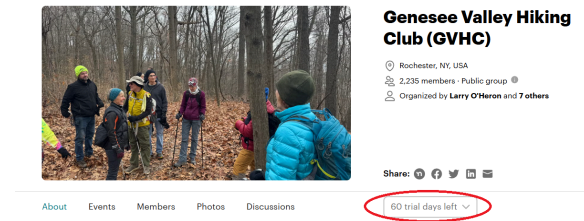
As part of the migration from our club more fully using the Meetup functionality, the base web address was changed to reflect our Meetup name changing from “Group” to “Club”

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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Update Credit Card Info

Important Note: We have received queries on entering 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 car number for automatic renewal.

Meetup will collect the dues at the end of the 60-day trial period. One can't pay dues early.

Check your credit card info on file. If you enter credit card info for GVHC, Meetup uses it for any other group you join that has dues. If you have a card on file, Meetup uses the card on file to charge annual dues for GVHC.

Just make sure that credit card info is the way you want it. This is also a good time to review all your accounts (Netflix, airlines, Amazon, etc etc) and verify that the appropriate credit card is on file, and still valid.

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Updates on Dues via Meetup

We have reached the end of February, and all is going well with the switch.

We have had a few issues. More about that later.

Their work and results gave us a strong sense of what should happen when dues got turned on inside Meetup.com.

When Jan 1st 2025 arrived, all went pretty much as expected.

We face two major kinds of issues:

- 1) People with two different Meetup profiles, and logged in with both.
- 2) People had multiple credit cards already on file with Meetup.com.
- 3) People with very simple Meetup names, e.g. “Larry”. These names are not unique, therefore several people do share a Meetup name.

The first may have been because they forgot they had an older profile, or for some reason wanted the separation.

The second may have been similar reasons.

The best solution for the third case is give yourself a more descriptive Meetup name, e.g. “Larry O” or “Larry Hiking” or “Larry President” etc.

Then also add a picture to your avatar. We prefer facial photos, but accept a full body photo. Both of these steps add in identifying you to us so that we can help you.

In all cases that the team is aware of, the issues were resolved. Old accounts were deactivated by the person, or old credit card numbers were removed by the person.

The end result is that we went from over 6000 members on Meetup (an obviously bogus number) to just over 300 dues-paying members.

An additional change is that now when someone reaches 60 days in dues awaiting status, we drop them from the club. Folks are always welcome to request to rejoin, and hopefully help support the club's activities.

We are now finalizing how to distribute the two-month hiking schedules via Meetup.com.

All members of GVHC will receive the two-month schedule via email via Meetup ... IF THEY HAVE TURNED ON PERMISSIONS TO RECEIVE EMAILS. (See article below on how to configure your browser.)

I want to thank the team of Tom K (VP), Nina T (Treasurer) and Michelle B (Membership) for all the hard work and time that they put into beta-testing.

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Arthur Parker & Genesee Valley Hiking Club

(ChatGPT assisted)

The Genesee Valley Hiking Club (GVHC) was founded in 1928 in Rochester, New York, with the goal of promoting outdoor

activities and fostering community through hiking.

Arthur C. Parker is often recognized as one of the key figures associated with the founding of the Genesee Valley Hiking Club (GVHC), though there is some ambiguity around whether he was the sole founder or a significant early member in the club's establishment.

Parker was a prominent figure in the early days of the club, helping shape its direction and promote the idea of organized hiking and outdoor activities in the region.

Arthur Parker was a well-known figure in the early 20th century, serving as the director of the Rochester Museum and Science Center, and was deeply involved in historical and cultural preservation. He was also an advocate for the outdoors, with an interest in nature, conservation, and promoting physical activities like hiking.

Under Parker's influence, the club attracted early members who shared his passion for the outdoors and wanted to enjoy the beautiful landscapes of Western New York. His leadership helped lay the foundation for the GVHC, which began as a small, volunteer-led organization dedicated to organizing hikes and outdoor excursions.

The club's mission aligned with Parker's broader interests in education, culture, and connecting people with nature, helping to establish GVHC as a community hub for outdoor enthusiasts. Today, Parker's legacy as a champion of outdoor recreation and local history continues to be associated with the club's early formation and the rich tradition of hiking in the Genesee Valley region.

Over its long history, the club has grown into a vibrant organization dedicated to outdoor exploration in Western New York, offering a variety of activities for people of all ages and fitness levels.

Originally, the club's focus was on hiking excursions in local parks and natural areas. Over time, it expanded its offerings to include snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, walking, and even dog walking, making it accessible year-round. The GVHC has always emphasized the importance of enjoying nature, physical activity, and community-building through shared experiences in the outdoors.

In its early years, the club relied on word of mouth and community connections to attract members. As it gained popularity, it began offering organized hikes and outings, ranging from short walks to more challenging hikes in nearby wilderness areas. The club's membership grew steadily throughout the 20th century, drawing individuals interested in health, fitness, and enjoying the beauty of the natural world.

Today, the Genesee Valley Hiking Club continues to play an important role in promoting outdoor activities in the region, encouraging individuals to connect with nature and each other while maintaining its commitment to the community and outdoor recreation. The club's rich history is a testament to its enduring dedication to fostering a love of hiking and the outdoors.

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Turn on GVHC Announcements in Meetup.com

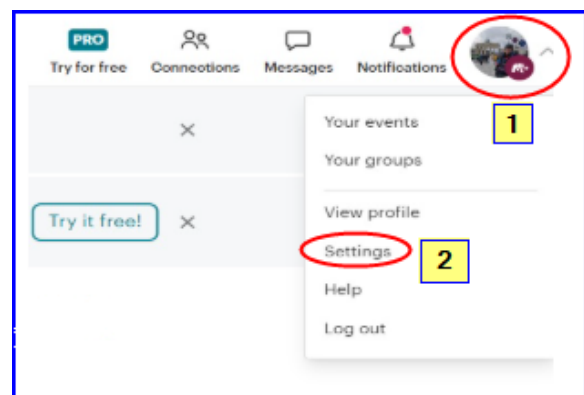
Meetup.com provides a quick, simple way for club officers and hike leaders to reach everyone, **who has enabled email announcements**.

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

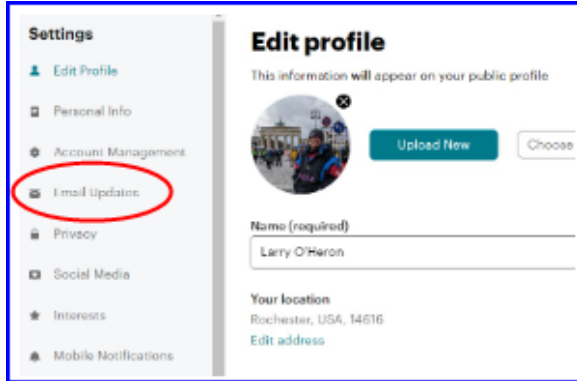
If you have questions, you can reach out to us at gvhchikes.org.

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.

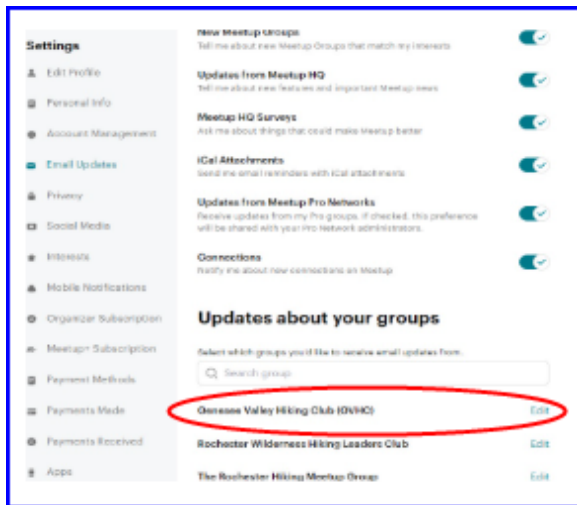
Window laptop / Chrome browser instructions follow:



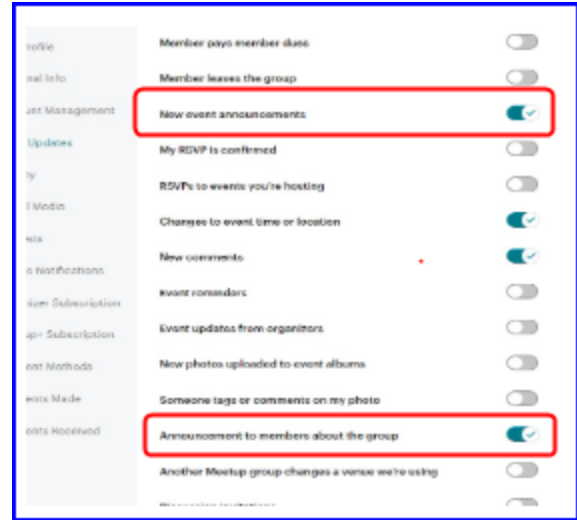
Step 1: Login to Meetup. Click on your avatar in the upper right-hand corner. Click on Settings.



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



Step 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