

# Genesee Valley Hiking Club Newsletter



Hamlin Beach Hike: Leader Ron M

---

## 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:

In this issue:

- Trail Maintenance Events
- Be A Hike Leader
- Poison Ivy
- Update on dues via Meetup
- Turn on real-time GVHC email announcements

The two-month Hiking schedule is only available to dues-paying members. It is sent out via Meetup.com, and requires you to enable receiving emails from Meetup. See end of newsletter for instructions.

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 Meetup billing or more generic Meetup 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.

Thanks in advance for your support.

=====

### 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.

=====

## Stepping Up to Leading Hikes - Becoming a GVHC Hike Leader

Tom Kolankiewicz - GVHC Vice-President

Our club's strength comes in large part from individuals volunteering to serve on the GVHC Executive Committee, Trail Sweeps and Hike Leaders.

How does a GVHC member, who enjoys participating in our scheduled hikes, step up to the challenge and become a hike leader?

What are the qualifications and process for becoming a hike leader?

These are the questions that I was asking myself after attending and enjoying my first few GVHC-sponsored hikes in the Spring of 2021.

As for hike leader qualifications ... I think there really are just two:

1. You need to have a desire to bring people together who enjoy socializing while they hike and explore the many natural venues available to us in Upstate New York, and,

2. You need to have some basic organizational skills and familiarity with the trails that you will be leading your group of hikers on.

If you satisfy the above two qualifications ... then you're likely a good candidate for leading GVHC hikes!

As a "newly minted" hike leader, I'm going to briefly describe my "hike leader on-boarding process" in FAQ format.

Is this Hike Leader role going to take a lot of my time?

**Answer:** No. Take the time that you would have allocated for participating in the hike and add 15 minutes. The day of your hike, you'll want to arrive at the trailhead at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the hike, so that hikers can sign in as they arrive.

Do I get assigned to lead certain hikes?

**Answer:** No. You decide what hike(s) you want to lead, the pace, difficulty level, and the date.

How do I schedule a hike?

**Answer:** Hikes are scheduled by our club

Hiking Director, Derek Price, on a rolling 2-month schedule. Derek emails hike leaders every 2 months and asks them what hikes they wish to lead. All communication is conveniently done via email.

What if I schedule a hike, but then an unexpected event comes up and I have to cancel?

**Answer:** Although this has happened, it's rare. Hikes have been cancelled for a variety of reasons (e.g. dangerous trail or weather conditions). Also, we do have an informal "hike leader buddy system" in place amongst the 25+ hike leaders. So, once you get to know some of your fellow hike leaders, you can always reach out to them to see if a backup hike leader can fill in for you, in the event you have to back out of your commitment.

Is there a class or video tutorial that I need to take to become a hike leader?

**Answer:** No, we're not that formal. But you can "shadow" a hike leader on any of our hikes to get a feel for the role & responsibilities. Once you've shadowed, or just observed the hike leader role, you should reach out to Derek Price, either on a hike or via email, and he'll guide you to leading your first hike.

Do I need to know first aid or have other lifesaving skills before I attempt to lead a hike?

**Answer:** No. You need to be able to call

“911”, in the unlikely event of a medical emergency.

How will I remember the vital steps that I need to perform when I lead hikes?

**Answer:** The [Resource Tab](#) on the [GVHC website](#) has a document called Hike Leader Checklist that outlines all the essential steps you need to follow to successfully lead a hike. You'll be able to keep this checklist on your phone and conveniently reference it when planning and leading your hikes.

Still wondering if being a hike leader is for you? Then it's worth noting that an added benefit of being a GVHC hike leader is that your annual membership dues (currently \$10) are waived if you lead at least 2 hikes per calendar year.

Hopefully by now, I have nudged a few of our many hikers to step into the hike leader role. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to any hike leader or member of the Executive Committee.

Alternatively, you can reach out to me via email [kolankprof@gmail.com](mailto:kolankprof@gmail.com), introduce yourself to me on a scheduled hike, or send me a direct message in Meetup - my meetup name is “Tom Kolankiewicz”.

=====

## Poison Ivy

(Chat GPT assisted)  
(Photos for free download)

Poison ivy is a plant native to North America that causes allergic reactions upon contact.



Remember “Leaves of three, let it be!”

It typically grows as a vine or shrub, featuring clusters of three leaflets with pointed tips.

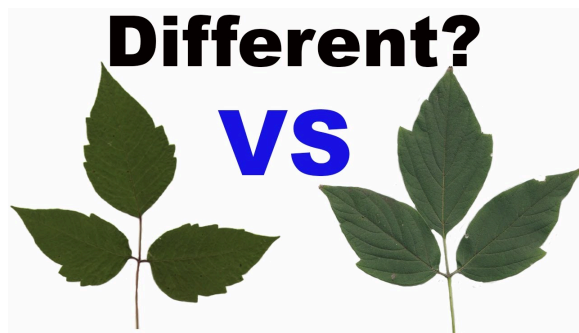




The leaves are green during spring and summer, turning red, orange, or yellow in fall.



All parts of the plant contain urushiol oil, which can lead to itching, redness, and blisters. To prevent reactions, avoid touching the plant and wash exposed skin promptly.



Poison Ivy (left) vs Box Elder (right)

For more info, conduct a search on plants that look like poison ivy.

=====

## Updates on Dues via Meetup

### Does Meetup Say that You are “Awaiting Dues” Status?

This means that your user id has requested to join more than 60 days ago, and a valid credit card was not provided, so Meetup did not collect the group dues, and your status was changed to “Awaiting Dues”.

What should happen from within the “Awaiting Dues” status is that once you provide a valid credit card, within several days the card should be charged \$10.00, and your status changes to “Member”.

When this fails to happen, please read on for troubleshooting suggestions and tips.

### Using a Computer versus Phone App

Verify that you get the same error behavior in both environments.

Many do not realize that the codebase for the website is completely distinct from the codebase for a phone app.

(In fact, the codebase varies significantly between iPhones and Android phones.)

An issue can occur in only one, or two or all three environments. Again, this is due to dissimilar codebases.

Some people have been able to clear a repeating error in a phone app by updating the app on their phone, or uninstalling and reinstalling the meetup app (remember your login info).

## Typical Issues We Are Seeing

We face several major kinds of issues:

- 1) People with two different Meetup profiles, and log in with both; or one of the login accounts is no longer used,
- 2) People with multiple credit cards already on file with Meetup.com.
- 3) People with very simple Meetup names, e.g. "Larry". Meetup allows multiple people to have the same name. These names are not unique; many people in the GVHC Meetup group do share a Meetup name.

### *People with two different profiles*

They forgot they had an older profile, or for some reason wanted the separation.

Perhaps the profile now in use is not the one associated with the credit card.

Or the credit card with the other profile expired.

### *Multiple credit cards on file*

Meetup chose the undesired card to charge. Remove multiple credit cards. Use only one card for all groups with Meetup dues.

### *Multiple People Using the Same Meetup Name*

Meetup allows more than one person to have the same Meetup name.

Give yourself a more descriptive Meetup name, e.g. "Larry O" or "Larry Hiking" or "Larry President" etc.

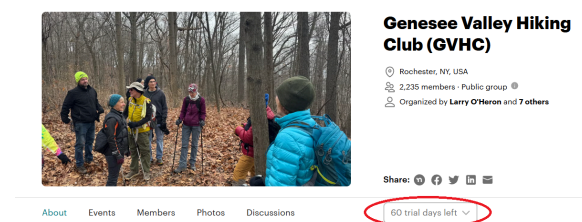
Then also add a picture to your avatar. We prefer facial photos, but accept a full body

photo. Both of these steps add in identifying you to us so that we can help you.

If you are having a related issue:

- 1: Review all login profiles.
- 2: Terminate unused logins.
- 3: Remove credit cards that are expired, canceled or that you no longer want Meetup to use.

## *Entering Credit Card Info While in Trial Membership*



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 number for automatic renewal.

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

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.

=====

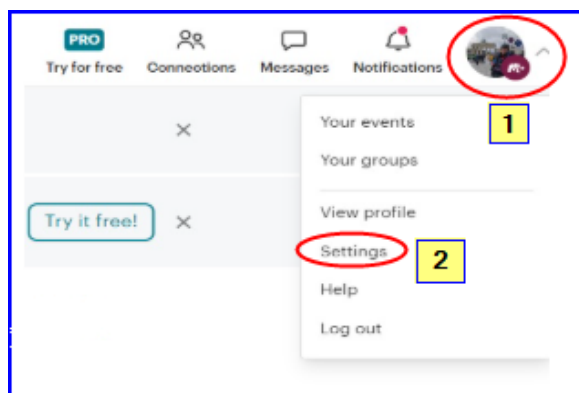
## Turn on GVHC Announcements in Meetup.com

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

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

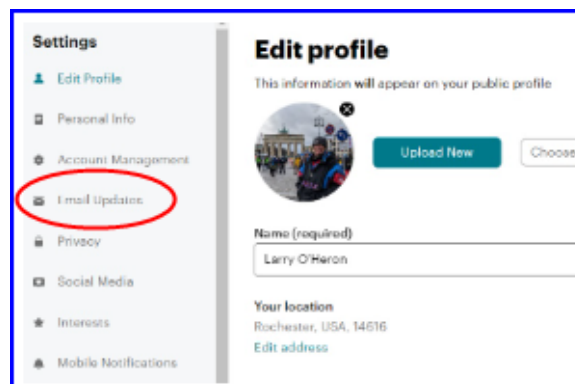
Unfortunately we can not provide a specific set of steps as browsers vary from each other and then again from platform to platform, e.g. laptop vs iPhone vs Android phone.

Window laptop / Chrome browser instructions follow:



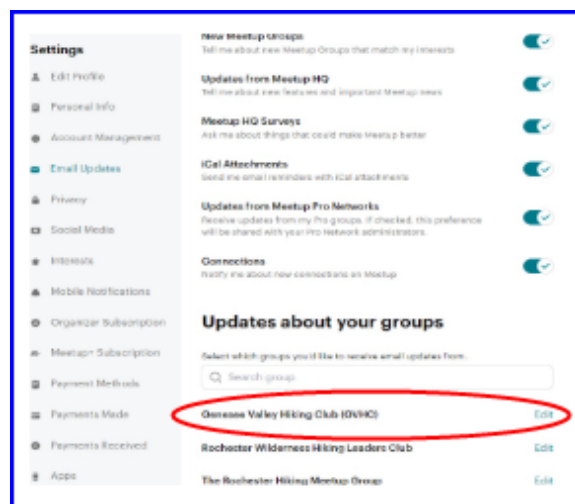
Step 1: Login to Meetup. Click on your avatar in the upper right-hand corner. Click on Settings.

-----



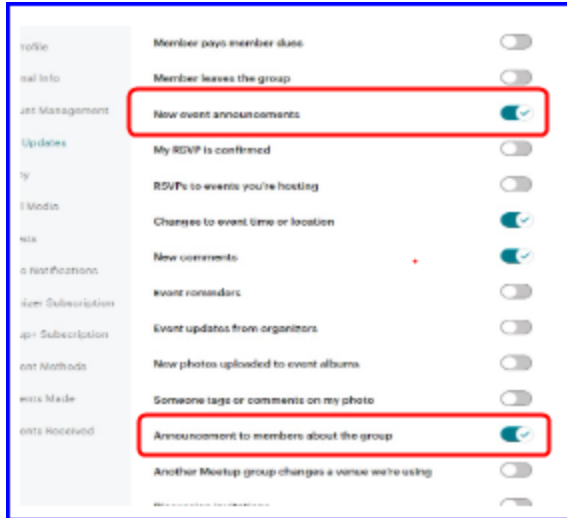
Step 2: On the left-hand side, click on Email Updates.

-----



Step 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.

=====

End of Newsletter