

Genesee Valley Hiking Club Newsletter



Alasa Farms Animal Sanctuary Hike (Sept 27, 2025)
Hike Lead: Tom K; Photos: Courtesy of Debbie R & Tom K

Executive Committee

Elected Officers:

President: Larry O'Heron
Vice President: Tom Kolankiewicz
Secretary: Patty Mangarelli
Treasurer: Nina Tracy

Immediate Past President: Ann Bayley

Committee Chairs:

Membership: Larry Powell
Hike Schedule: Joan Jakubowski (Pending)
Trails Maintenance: Ryan Bean
Social: Iris Raiman
Info Tech: Larry O'Heron
Historian: (vacant)
At-Large: Ruth Teitel
At-Large: Alicia Collins

Assistants:

Hike Schedule: Darla Cornell
Social: Ruth Teitel

Message from the President:

Dear GVHC Members,

Event Schedule Changes:

We are getting into the winter months.

The county may issue traffic alerts.

Stay on top of hiking conditions by:

- 1) Checking your hike event on Meetup the day of the hike by logging into [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) and navigating to the comments section of the hike, or
- 2) Sign-up to receive real-time emails from [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) by enabling this feature in your meetup account. You can choose to accept as few emails as you desire.

Most relevant would be comments posted to your event of interest.

To turn on emails, we have published step-by-step instructions in the May and July issues of the GVHC Newsletter, available at <https://www.gvhchikes.org>

Billing Issues:

Only occasionally now are we hearing of people from whom Meetup will not or can not charge their credit card for the annual dues.

It generally seems these folks have multiple ways of logging into Meetup (email / google / facebook) and have either expired and/or multiple credit cards on file.

Billing Payment issues are time consuming and frustrating. Unfortunately, we don't have the back end system permissions to resolve these issues.

Please contact Meetup directly by filling out the Help Request Form available at this link:

<https://help.meetup.com/hc/en-us/requests/new>

Help with Meetup Features:

We have several Meetup help articles, available at our [GVHC website](https://www.gvhchikes.org) on the homepage.

- Submit a Tech Support Request
- Turn on Email Announcements
- Awaiting Dues Status

Newsletter Availability

Find this newsletter and earlier editions at:

<https://gvhchikes.org/Newsletters.html>

Thanks in advance for your support.

In this issue:

- Hike Leader Recognition Get-together
- Hike Leader Checklist
- Annual Members Get-together
- GVHC Officer Elections
- Red Creek

Hike Leader Recognition Get-together!

Iris R and Ruth T put together another fun afternoon for hike leaders to socialize together with some good conversation and chance to catch up.

We gathered together (Sept 21, 2025) at Ferrari's Pizza in East Rochester on a beautiful Sunday afternoon.

Tom K took a few minutes to go over recent changes:

- Current version of the hike leader sign-in sheet
- Slow walkers on hikes
- Being the face of the club for hikers

(Photos by Ruth T)

It's the hike leaders who ultimately make GVHC successful. Thank you for your willingness to step forward (literally LOL).



Tom K Reviewing Recent Changes



Nancy, Derek, Mark, Linda, Donna (L to R)



Paul, Holly, Derek, Kraig and Linda (L to R)



Barb and Larry O Talking Pack-Paddle-Ski



Not sure what Tom & Paul are talking about.



Chauncy and Lois (L to R)
Must have been big!



Derek, Nancy, Mark, Linda, Donna (L to R)



Tom, Holly, Kraig, Iris (L to R)

A Year of Changes

2025 has been a year of changes:

- Move to paid dues via Meetup
- New Membership Chair
- New Hike Scheduler Chair
- Failpoints

Dues via Meetup

On Jan 1, 2025, GVHC changed from a paper-based/Paypal © based system of dues collection to Meetup ©.

By the end of the year, we eliminated multiple failpoints in the way the club conducted operations:

- Dues via cash / paper check
- Dues handed in via hike leader / club officer
- Manually maintained email & contact lists
- No standard method of communication
- Club data on individual personal computers

Using Meetup to collect dues, we have:

- gone from approximately 150 to just under 500 paid members,
- eliminated multiple email & contact lists.
- Improved the reliability of membership data, and
- streamlined data analysis for trends.

Membership

It was back in 2024 the Michelle B, Membership Chair at the time, provided a well-reasoned, well-thought-out point paper

to the Executive Committee on the regular issues she faced. After much research by a dedicated team of Tom K, Michelle B and Nina T, they recommended to the Exec Cmte that GVHC switch to Meetup.

The results have been outstanding.

(Note: there is a direct link to Meetup at the beginning of the newsletter for those few folks whose Meetup accounts have underlying data issues. It has been painful for them - we realize.)

Hike Scheduler

Derek P, having been a backbone of the club for years - decades, expressed his desire to move on.

We welcome Joan J and Darla C and greatly appreciate their coming forward to fill Derek's role.

Failpoints

The move to Meetup afforded us one other opportunity.

The club had multiple fail points based on our reliance on paper and archaic electronic ways of doing business.

Tom K has been working with the club officers and Chairs to move data from personal computers to a shared cloud drive with two principal goals in mind.

- Simplify planned transitions and ease the growth pains of new volunteers
- Recover quickly in the unexpected loss of a key person.

Hike Leader Checklist

Wonder what your hike leaders do to prepare for a hike?

Wondering what it would take for you to be a hike leader?

Whether you are interested in how we prepare, or you want to give something back to the club, and lead a hike yourself, we have on our website, an audio 15-minute conversation about what hike leaders do to prepare.

Take a listen. It is an AI-generated conversation between two folks about what are the best practices.

We appreciate what our hike leaders do.

And maybe, just maybe, you will want to help our club grow.

Being a hike leader only takes some dedication, a willingness to follow our best practices and a reach out to us via our website.

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Find [the conversation](#) here.

Or go to our [website](#).

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Annual Members Get-Together

2025 Fall Gathering.

- Nov. 23rd (Sunday). Stewart Lodge.
12:00 - 1:30
- Bring a bag lunch
- GVHC will provide drinks and desserts
- Vote for Club Officers (two-year terms) for:
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Vice-President
 - President

Kindly **RSVP** by **Nov. 18** on Meetup as you do for a hike. Thank you!

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Club Officer Elections

Elections will be held at the Annual Fall Get-Together.

The following offices (two-year terms) will be voted on by the membership:

Secretary

Treasurer

Vice-President

President

You can read up on the terms of office, responsibilities and other information related to the elections on our website at <https://www.gvhchikes.org> on the Resources tab. Look for the current by-laws item.

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Downtown Rochester Hike



Date: Oct 5th, 2025

Lead: Larry O

Sweep: Ryan B

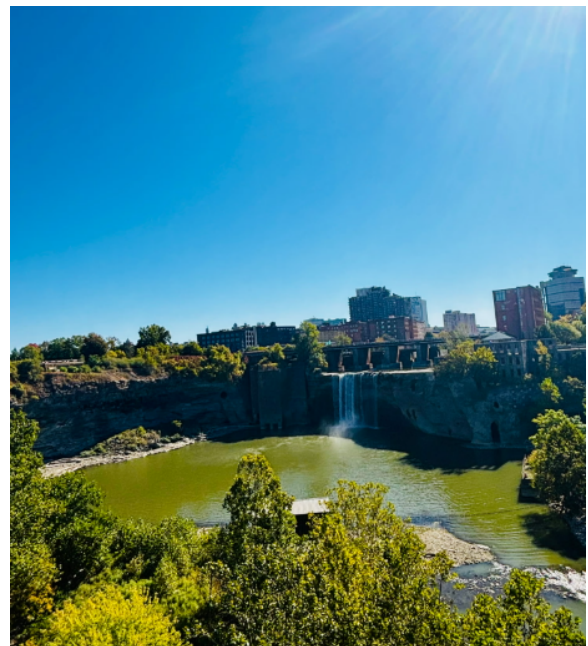
Photos: Lisa S



Strong Museum of Play (showing the caterpillar / butterfly architectural design elements)



St Luke and St Cyrene Church, Fitzugh St



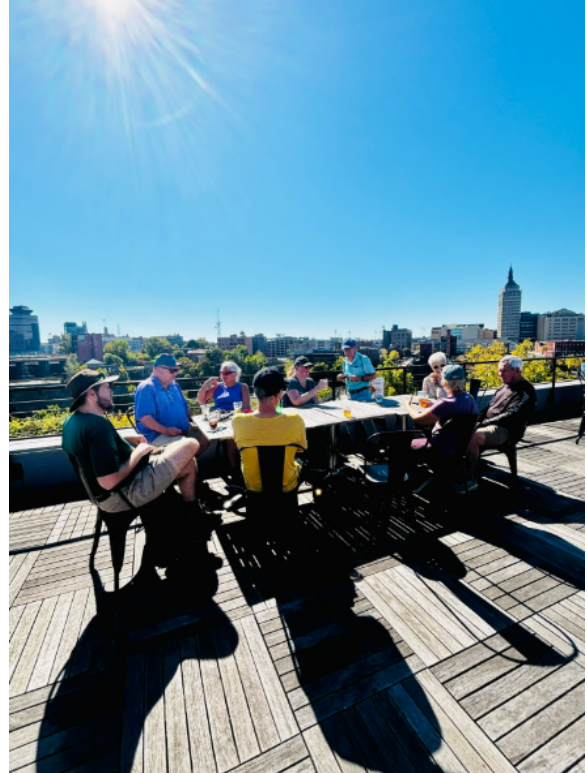
High Falls



MLK Park



First Universalist Church (next door to)
Innovation Square (the former Xerox tower)



Relaxing post-hike on Genesee Brew
House roof

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Red Creek - Genesee Valley Park

(ChatGPT assisted)

Red Creek, Rochester / Monroe County

This is a creek that flows through parts of Rochester, notably through Genesee Valley Park, and empties into the Erie Canal, just east of the Genesee River. Here's its historical context:

Natural / Pre-European Context

- The area around Genesee Valley, including where Red Creek flows, was used by Indigenous peoples, including the Seneca from the Haudenosaunee / Iroquois Nation.
- In particular, Red Creek was a point where canoes were landed. The Senecas, traveling down the Genesee River, would land at Red Creek (or slightly below) and portage over to launch canoes toward Irondequoit Creek and Lake Ontario.

Park & Urban Incorporation

- Red Creek is one of three waterways that intersect in **Genesee Valley Park** (the others being the Genesee River and the Erie Canal). The park was designed by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and established (land acquired) in 1888.
- The creek has been a popular scenic spot in the park.
- With the construction of the New York State Barge Canal (which replaced parts of the Erie Canal) and other infrastructure changes, the flow of Red Creek was altered.

Modern Use & Ecology

- The creek is part of the park's trail system (Red Creek Trail) and is used for paddling & recreation.

- It (and the park generally) has suffered changes from infrastructure (roads, expressways, bridges, drainage, etc.) that affected its natural flow, appearance, and connectivity. Thus many landscape elements have been lost over time.

End of Newsletter