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## Mud Creek Central Railroad offers a unique experience

Tuesday June 12, 2012 | By:Rikki Cason

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Bringing a hobby to life are the members of Mud Creek Central Railroad, Inc.

Located at 7349 Tonawanda Creek Road in Rapids, Mud Creek Central Railroad is an outdoor area with 6,000 feet of track for large-scale railroading, along with a tunnel, bridges, engine house, turntable and more.

The railroad has been growing on 25 acres for more than five years.

Mud Creek Central is located next to the home of Mike Burg, who is on the board of directors for the club. He also has his own private track that is on 30 acres and connects to Mud Creek Central Railroad.

New tracks will be completed by the end of the year and club members are currently working on an up and over bridge.

"We eventually want to have five miles of track," said Burg. "That is the eventual goal."

Mud Creek Central Railroad tracks are for trains that are 1/8 the scale of a full-size train. Last year, a second size track was added in to accommodate trains that are 1/12 the size of a full-size train.

There are currently 30 members in the club from around Western New York, including Lockport, Pendleton and Amherst and more are always welcome. Burg said most of the members are also apart of the Tonawanda Creek Model Engineers in Pendleton.

The railroad also offers a place for members to build and work on their own trains.

Burg's love for trains began when he was a child. He said he was watching the 1950s television show "You Asked For It" and they did a segment on large-scale steam engines.

"I always wanted to do something like that," he said.

Then in 1995, Burg said he was looking through a magazine on scale trains when he came across a list of clubs in the back. That is when he found the Pendleton group. He said the rest

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is history and he has been building and running large scale trains ever since.

Burg is also the owner of M&M Precision, which is run out of his home.

The machine shop uses computer numerical control equipment and is currently expanding by adding on a metal building to house new equipment. Burg worked in the field part-time for 30 years before pursuing it full-time and starting his own business. M & M Precision now employs four.

Each year Mud Creek Railroad offers several opportunities for the public to ride the rails. Their spring meet was recently held and the summer meet with take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 18 and 19 For \$10, families can purchase a guest membership and ride as many times as they want.

Three trains run the track during the meets and rides last 15-minutes, with trains leaving every five-minutes. Each train can hold between 10 to 15 passengers. Train rides are for people of all ages.

Burg said when the public sees the railroad for the first time they are "amazed." He said most comment how they didn't realize something like that existed in the area.


Mud Creek Central runs year round, even in the snow. Burg said they have a special engine with a snowplow on the front that can travel through the snow.

Mud Creek Central Railroad is dedicated to providing a track for those wanting to build or run locomotives in steam, electric and gas, along with rolling stock modeled after prototype railroads.

There are several types of membership opportunities, including a social membership for \$35 a year and a full membership for \$75 a year.

For more information about Mud Creek Central Railroad, how to ride the trains or how to become a member visit [www.mudcreekcentral.com](http://www.mudcreekcentral.com).

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