

**ARRL "HAMTRAK" train trip August 12-14, 2010  
Arranged by Bob Mente, NU3Q**

For ease, any mention of "**Bob**" refers to Bob Mente NU3Q

**These are all the details for the trip:**

- This is a **multi club event**. You do not need to be a member of any amateur radio club or a member of anything to come along. This is a fun trip for all.
- To get on the train **you will need photo ID**.
- We will be staying at the hotel for **two nights**. We have a special deal with the hotel.
- The hotel **is right across the street** from the train station in Hartford.
- The rental car company is located in the train station in Hartford.
- We will be renting vans and cars to travel from Hartford to Newington.
- We **will have access** to operate **W1AW**. Bring your **Amateur Radio license**.
- Our visit to ARRL HQ will be on Friday August 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM.
- Once you have made your arrangements **PLEASE** let Bob know so that he knows how many vans/cars to reserve.
- You will pick up your train tickets at the AMTRAK station you will depart from the morning of the trip.
- You can also catch the train from Greensburg, or any other train station along the way (points east of Pittsburgh) that works best for you.

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Details: **Parking**

There is no place to park at the train station in Pittsburgh! There is a parking lot at 12<sup>th</sup> and Smallman Street (near the Heinz History Center) for about \$6.00 a day where we can park. It is approximately a three block walk to the train station. The Pittsburgh Amtrak train station is located at 11<sup>th</sup> and Liberty, across the street from the Pittsburgh Transportation Center.

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Details: **AMTRAK**

You can also call 1-800-USA-RAIL

Or you can go on-line

Go to [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)

The abbreviation for Pittsburgh is **PGH**  
The abbreviation for Hartford, CT is **HFD**

Departing date is **August 12<sup>th</sup>**

Returning date is **August 14<sup>th</sup>**

You can leave "Time" at the default (Anytime) because there are no choices to pick from.

Click on "Round Trip".

Select the number of adults, children and infants from the appropriate drop down boxes.

Click GO.

Details: **The outbound trip**

You will see the following choices for the outbound trip:

**Choice 1: 30 Capital Limited - 148 Northeast Regional**

**Choice 2: 42 Pennsylvanian – 94 Northeast Regional – 494 Shuttle**

**Choice 3: 42 Pennsylvanian – 148 Northeast Regional**

**We are going to CT via the third choice – 42 Pennsylvanian – 148 Northeast Regional. Please be at the Pittsburgh Amtrak Station by 6:30 AM (if that is your point of departure), otherwise be at your departing Amtrak train station approximately an hour BEFORE the train is scheduled to leave the station.** The 42 Pennsylvanian leaves Pittsburgh at 7:20 AM and arrives in Philadelphia (30<sup>th</sup> Street Amtrak station) at 2:50 PM. Our connecting train to Hartford (148 Northeast Regional) leaves Philadelphia at 5:00 PM and arrives in Hartford at 9:20 PM. I am selecting this route to allow for enough time to meet our connecting train to Hartford in case of any track issues along the way and for those who want to do some quick sightseeing in Philadelphia during the layover.

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Details: **The return trip**

You will see the following choice for the return trip:

**143 Northeast Regional – 43 Pennsylvanian**

**Our departing train will be the 143 Northeast Regional – 43 Pennsylvanian. That is the only choice for our return trip. We need to meet at the Amtrak train station across the street from the hotel no later than 6:15 AM.** The 143 Northeast Regional leaves Hartford at 7:08 AM and arrives in New York City (Penn Station) at 9:50 AM. Our connecting train for home (43 Pennsylvanian) leaves Penn Station at 10:50 AM and arrives in Pittsburgh at 8:05 PM.

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Details: **DISCOUNTS/CHECK OUT**

**At the bottom of the page there is a space for any discounts such as AAA or AARP. Take advantage of these discounts - there are instructions.** The rest of the steps are pretty cut and dry - billing and such. I just did my tickets and it came to \$288.00 round trip for two adults with my AAA 10% discount.

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Details: **Hotel**

We will be staying at the **Holiday Inn Express Downtown Hartford**. Their direct phone number is **1-860-246-9900** to make reservations. **You** will need to make the reservations. Ask for the **“Skyview Deal”** (this is the same name as last year). I talked to a gal by the name of Alison Oliver but they all should know about the deal. **The room rate is \$110.00** per night discounted from a normal room rate of \$125 to \$139.00 per night. We have 10 rooms reserved with king size beds. If we need more rooms, the hotel will try to accommodate us based on room availability. **We will be staying the nights of August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.** They have a continental breakfast. We will be heading back to Pittsburgh on the morning of Saturday August 14<sup>th</sup>. The hotel is across the street from the train station.

### Details: **Rental cars**

We will need to drive from Hartford down to Newington, which is about a 20 mile drive. We will be able to rent 7 passenger vans. By the head count for the train I will call ahead and make sure we have enough vans/cars for our needs. I already have one van reserved and can get more if needed. Please keep in mind that I need to give the rental car company adequate notice should we need more than one van. The cost for a 7 passenger van is approximately \$106.99 with my AAA discount. Again, the rental car company is right in the train station. The money for each van/car rented will be split up between the people riding in each van/car.

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### Details: **XYLs and non-hams**

For those folks that are not interested in the ARRL aspect of the trip, they will have the opportunity to spend the day doing whatever it is that they work out amongst themselves. I have been told that there are some large malls and outlets in the Hartford area. There will be lots of time to work this out on the train ride. Anyone interested can research this on the web. I also have the AAA CT Tour Guide as well.

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### Details: **ARRL HQ**

We will be going to ARRL HQ on August 13<sup>th</sup> – Our tour is scheduled for 9 AM. If our group is too large for a single tour they will split us up into two tours and stagger our times to work W1AW. You can have QSL cards checked and deliver cards to the outgoing QSL bureau as well. **Do not forget to bring a copy of your license – you will need your license to operate W1AW!** We will have Friday night free to do anything that we decide. We can split into groups if we want to do different things. We can talk about this on the train as well.

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### Details: **Responsibility**

**Bob is not a travel agent.** All information is **to the best of his knowledge**. Bob is **not responsible** for the trains being on time, breaking down, or any bad information given to him by people at the hotel, AMTRAK, the rental car company or ARRL. Even though you need to tell the hotel people that you want the “Skyview Deal” **this is not a Skyview event. By traveling on this trip you travel at your own risk.**

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### Details: **Trains and Train Stations**

I called Amtrak to inquire about electricity and Internet service. Since we are traveling coach, there may (or may not) be any electrical outlets available on the train – it depends on the whether the particular train has any outlets in the coach section. At this time, there is NO Internet service available on the Pennsylvanian and Northeast Regional lines. At both the Philadelphia and Penn Stations, there is WiFi Internet service available inside the station itself.

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We are bound to have a great time on this trip! Looking forward to our travels together. If you have questions, comments, dirty jokes, etc., please feel free to e-mail or call me:

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Bob  
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