



FD 2020 is the most realistic Field Day I have ever experienced. In December of 2008 the North Central Massachusetts region, suffer from a devastating ice storm that knocked out power for up to two weeks. During that time, many communities utilized ham radio for logistical support. In the City of Gardner there were ham stations posted at the police station, middle school shelter and a shelter at the Mass National Guard Armory. That is just three field operations. All the other active hams, particularly licensed CERT members, worked from their homes under emergency power. Short of hams responding to calls for support out of their home area, I believe most ham radio operators would be working from home which makes this Field Day event most realistic.

The Mohawk Amateur Radio Club serves the Greater Gardner Area. Paul Topolski, W1SEX activated the city Emergency Operations Center which has an impressive ham radio installation. In the spirit of Field Day, Paul and club members install additional temporary antennae and an HF station for the event.

One asset we did not have in 2008 was the inexpensive video conferencing applications that are here today. To maintain club adhesion the members used a Zoom Room conference application to keep in touch. The Zoom room allowed members to ask questions of each other and report progress during the event. In order to keep the conference live for the twenty-four plus hours of the event, Ken Burstall, WB8PKK offered the use of his subscription.

Pictured above are Ken Burstall WB8PKK, Paul Topolski W1SEX, Todd Sanders K1TKS, Kevin Erickson N1ERS, Pete Osowski K6IPO, and Bob Coleman, K1QED