



6-m antenna-assembly participants (l-r): Larry DiFiore, KC2HGP; Steve Hoffman, KC2YYF; Jeremy Griffel, K2GRI and John Paolucci, KD2PTX. (Photo courtesy: Bruce Baccaro, K2ULZ)

For this year's Field Day exercise at Cronomer Hill, we decided to assemble a brand-new Comet 4-element, 6-m beam as our formal "Educational Activity." Two newly-licensed Members were guided by several "veteran" Hams using both the included instructions (*as well as their practical experience!*) to not only learn how this antenna worked, but to ensure its many small parts were assembled correctly. Because the manual's drawings referenced several different models, there were a few "OOPS!" moments which required partial disassembly, but these unintentional mistakes actually helped us better understand how and why things needed to be done properly!

Once assembled, it was time to confirm its tuning was correct before hoisting it to the intended spot 35 feet atop the Fire Tower. With guidance from Fred Whitaker, WA2GZW; Micky Favoino, K2NRS; George Sparling, N2BEF and Joe DiLorenzo, W2BCC, we used Fred's *MFJ Antenna Analyzer* to "tweak" the antenna for best-matching on the low end of 6 Meters. Thanks to this group's efforts, we were able to easily make 51 contacts using CW, Phone and Digital modes from stations in New England through Tennessee (*even one Toronto, Canada contact!*)

Not only did this exercise yield a productive result (*contact-points*), but it created interest in further experimentation and learning as a desirable, fun aspect of Amateur Radio (*and our Club.*) **Many thanks to everyone who participated**, including those not mentioned in this article.

John Paolucci, KD2PTX
OCARC FD-2021 Committee Chair
(jpalooch@aol.com)

7.3.10 – "Educational Activity"