

# KM0TO Newsletter – December 2004

## Happy Holidays from KM0TO!!!

KM0TO is ringing in the Holiday Season with the recent “birth” of the MARC Club in Libertyville.

### KM0TO Charter

The November club meeting was a historical event as the club charter members approved the Club Constitution. Our club’s John Hancock was John Boos who helped author the constitution establishing the club in Libertyville. The club is grateful for the support from Schaumburg’s MARC chapter who encouraged this milestone. The charter members are:

*Jerry Breuss N9GGO*

*John Boos KOHVS*

*Steve Sherman K9LKD*

*Keith Landowski KC6VMM*

*Fred Sanborn KG9X*

*Les Mutz*

*Jim Reynolds KB9LQH*

*Ken Willmott KW9U*

*Howard Huntington K9KM*

*Wayne Wagner AA9DY*

*Chad Kurszewski WE9V*

*Fred Glenn K9SO*

*Kathy Kumorek-Breuss*

*Adrian Engele AA5UK*

*Tom Maher N9ESR*

*Steven Michaels*

*Fred Sassin KJ5VC*

*Jim Spence KO9A*



Charter Members at the November meeting: (Front L→R) Les Mutz, Jerry Breuss/N9GGO, Keith Landowski/KC6VMM, Howard Huntington/K9KM, Steve Sherman/N9LKD, Chad Kurszewski/WE9V; (Back L→R) Fred Sanborn/KG9X, Ken Willmott/KW9U, Jim Reynolds/KB9LQH, John Boos/KOHVS, Wayne Wagner/AA9DY

### Officer Elections

The 2005 Officers were elected at the November general meeting and a vote was passed to install them at that time, given that there is were only two months left in the year. Your 2004/2005 Officers are (also pictured above):

*President:*

*Jerry Breuss - N9GGO*

*Vice President:*

*Keith Landowski - KC6VMM*

*Secretary:*

*Ken Willmott - KW9U*

*Treasurer:*

*Wayne Wagner - AA9DY*

*Trustee 3yr:*

*Howard Huntington - K9KM*

*Trustee 2yr:*

*John Boos - KOHVS*

*Trustee 1yr:*

*Fred Sanborn - KG9X*

# KM0TO Newsletter – December 2004

[Topics for December 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting](#) (at Noon in the Holodeck Conference Room near Door A elevator)

- Update on antenna installation
- Access to the club station
- Membership and Dues
- Christmas banquet
- KM0TO Operating Activity Report
- November Sweepstake Results
- Tentative January 2005 Topics include: 2004 Year in Review and setting 2005 club events/activities

## [2004 ARRL November Sweepstakes](#)

This was the first SS participation for the club and many of the members of Team-KM0TO. The station has been a team effort in order to get to the point of being contest ready. The station committee and contesting team had lots of fun and learned a lot.

We did not play in the CW portion of the sweeps, but we DID play in the SSB Phone event which occurred over the weekend of November 20-22.

The purpose of the sweepstakes competition was for amateurs to work as many amateurs in as many ARRL/RAC sections as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meters. Sweepstakes has a more complicated exchange than in other contests. It closely resembles the header of a formal radio-gram. This is perhaps the

most competitive of contests for US and Canadian stations. Because of the more demanding exchange, it really challenges an operator's abilities.

This year's SS Contesting Team involved: Wayne-AA9DY (Leader), Jerry N9GGO, Kathy, Adrian-AA5UK, Keith-KC6VMM. Each team member contributed to the successful contest run.

The club was well equipped with solar indices reports, radio computer interface, packet station for spotting, and headsets with footswitch, and other components. Thanks go out to Adrian (AA5UK) and Jerry (N9GGO) for providing many parts of the contesting station. Adrian, Jerry, and Wayne spent some time in the week leading up to the contest to setup and debug the entire setup.



Team-KM0TO: (Front L→R) Keith Landowski/KC6VMM, Jerry Breuss/N9GGO;  
(Back L→R) Adrian Engele/AA5UK, Wayne Wagner/AA9DY, Kathy Kumorek-Breuss

# KM0TO Newsletter – December 2004

Wayne held a pre-contest meeting to introduce the team to the new logging software. This was followed by a visit to the shack to show the radio equipment for the contest and answer further questions.

Our overall score was 52,668 points, which consisted of 342 QSO's and 77 sections as multipliers. There are 80 section total. We missed Delaware, Quebec, and Saskatchewan.

During the sweepstakes, 24 of the possible of 30 hours of operation is allowed. KM0TO's op-time was 22 hours 37 minutes.



Wayne/AA9DY and Jerry/N9GGO stop contesting for a picture.



"Did we just MISS Delaware!?"

Since we had enough KM0TO'ers who are also SMC members, we were able to submit our score to count towards an aggregate score for the Society of Midwest Contesters (<http://www.w9smc.com>). Last competitive update revealed the CW/SSB combined standings placing SMC at about 8.4 millions points ahead of PVRC. PVRC (Potomac Valley Radio Club) and NCCC (Northern California Contesting Club) are SMC's rivals in the Radio Sport world.

Everybody on Team-KM0TO rose to the challenge this contest had to offer and had a great time in doing so.

## Comments from the contest team:

*"I operated mostly through the night and at one point in the morning hours found a pocket to call CQ on. Then worked a string of contacts and got squeezed out by a couple of big-gun stations on both sides. So I went back into S&P (search and pounce) mode. At the time I left KM0TO in the morning, we had worked more than half of the sections. When I came back in the afternoon to see how we were doing, I found out that Adrian, Jerry, and Kathy almost had a clean sweep. Around midnight, I managed to contact the Hiram Maxim Percy Memorial Station (W1AW). This is my second contact with W1AW for KM0TO since we went operational on October 2nd this year. Overall, I was very excited to see the team spirit we had going!" – Wayne / AA9DY*

*"I had a lot of fun operating KM0TO during November sweepstakes. It was a challenge working some of the weaker stations, but with Jerry as a co-operator we were able to contact several hard-to-get stations and complete the QSO. I'm looking forward to next year's sweepstakes!" – Keith / KC6VMM*

*"Considering we had a barefoot station with average antennas, the station performed well. In a majority of the cases even weak stations could be worked with some patience. The crew learned some valuable lessons about station setup and preparation. We will definitely be ready for the next big contest, I hope to see more operators come out and enjoy the thrill of a contest!" – Adrian / AA5UK*

# KM0TO Newsletter – December 2004

*"Sweepstakes was the most challenging event I have operated. The exchange was long, especially when making the contact with AL1G [Corliss] in Anchorage Alaska. Both signals were very weak and each of us had to repeat the exchange. I wanted to make sure the exchange was copied correctly; my wife was helping me log, and we both verified the exchange message. I was very impressed with the contacts the club made and the performance of the station and operators. It was a team effort to have put together the club station this year. I am looking forward to operating Sweepstakes next year. Wow! To be able to enjoy this hobby from a club station at Motorola... a dream come true..."*

– Jerry / N9GGO

*"I appreciated the teamwork approach...It was exciting to see our required locations flashing in green on the packet cluster to help us make final contacts."*

– Kathy Kumorek-Breuss

## Comments from outside Team-KM0TO:

*"I want to congratulate the Motorola, Libertyville team on turning in this score. I think this is the first SS for most if not all of the ops. The station has been a team effort in recent months to coordinate with facilities, purchase and construct some antennas and collect enough equipment to get on the air. And the points count for SMC. Great job Everyone. This is much of what contesting is all about, that is to encourage new contesters to join in and have fun."*

-Howie / K9KM (SMC Maillist)

*"Congrats to the KM0TO SS team. Great job in manning the station for 24 hrs, getting the station ready for its first full contest, and to the ops for doing a great job, especially for their first contest or Sweepstakes, one of the most difficult contests (due to the long exchange)." - Chad WE9V (KM0TO Maillist)*

Below, you will find a QSO's vs Time tabulation for KM0TO SS Ops.

73, Wayne / AA9DY

| Time        |          | Band |    |     |    |    |    |     | Running Total |
|-------------|----------|------|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|---------------|
| UTC         | Local    | 160  | 80 | 40  | 20 | 15 | 10 | ALL |               |
| 21:00       | 3:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 0   | 29 | 0  | 0  | 29  | 29            |
| 22:00       | 4:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 0   | 8  | 0  | 0  | 8   | 37            |
| 23:00       | 5:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 0   | 1  | 6  | 8  | 15  | 52            |
| 0:00        | 6:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 0   | 3  | 6  | 0  | 9   | 61            |
| 1:00        | 7:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 0   | 9  | 0  | 0  | 9   | 70            |
| 2:00        | 8:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 2   | 1  | 0  | 0  | 3   | 73            |
| 3:00        | 9:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 6   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 6   | 79            |
| 4:00        | 10:00 PM | 0    | 14 | 4   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 18  | 97            |
| 5:00        | 11:00 PM | 0    | 15 | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 15  | 112           |
| 6:00        | 12:00 AM | 0    | 12 | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 12  | 124           |
| 7:00        | 1:00 AM  | 0    | 6  | 14  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 20  | 144           |
| 8:00        | 2:00 AM  | 0    | 5  | 5   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 10  | 154           |
| 9:00        | 3:00 AM  | 0    | 0  | 34  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 34  | 188           |
| 10:00       | 4:00 AM  | 0    | 0  | 10  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 10  | 198           |
| 11:00       | 5:00 AM  | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 198           |
| 12:00       | 6:00 AM  | 0    | 0  | 20  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 20  | 218           |
| 13:00       | 7:00 AM  | 0    | 0  | 23  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 23  | 241           |
| 14:00       | 8:00 AM  | 0    | 0  | 2   | 1  | 0  | 0  | 3   | 244           |
| 15:00       | 9:00 AM  | 0    | 0  | 9   | 3  | 5  | 0  | 17  | 261           |
| 16:00       | 10:00 AM | 0    | 0  | 0   | 6  | 9  | 0  | 15  | 276           |
| 17:00       | 11:00 AM | 0    | 0  | 9   | 0  | 6  | 0  | 15  | 291           |
| 18:00       | 12:00 PM | 0    | 0  | 1   | 0  | 5  | 0  | 6   | 297           |
| 19:00       | 1:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 0   | 3  | 0  | 0  | 3   | 300           |
| 20:00       | 2:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  | 2  | 0  | 2   | 302           |
| 21:00       | 3:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 0   | 2  | 2  | 0  | 4   | 306           |
| 22:00       | 4:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 16  | 0  | 0  | 0  | 16  | 322           |
| 23:00       | 5:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 6   | 1  | 1  | 0  | 8   | 330           |
| 0:00        | 6:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 2   | 4  | 0  | 0  | 6   | 336           |
| 1:00        | 7:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 5   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 5   | 341           |
| 2:00        | 8:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 0   | 1  | 0  | 0  | 1   | 342           |
| 3:00        | 9:00 PM  | 0    | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0  | 0   | 342           |
| Band Totals |          | 0    | 52 | 168 | 72 | 42 | 8  | 342 | 342           |
| Bands       |          | 160  | 80 | 40  | 20 | 15 | 10 | ALL |               |

# KM0TO Newsletter – December 2004

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## December Contests (see <http://www.arrl.org/contests/months/dec.html> for more details)

### Dec 2-6

[ARRL 160 Meter Contest](#)--2200Z Dec 3-1600Z Dec 5.

[Top Band Sprint](#)--CW/SSB, sponsored by QRP ARCI, 0000Z-0600Z Dec 2. Frequencies: 160-meters only.

[ARRL International EME Contest](#)--0000Z Dec 4-2400Z Dec 5, 50 -- 1296 MHz.

[TARA RTTY Mêlée](#)--sponsored by the Troy Amateur Radio Assn, 0000Z-2400Z Dec 4.

[TOPS Activity Contest](#)--CW--sponsored by TOPS, from 1800Z Dec 4-1800Z Dec 5. Frequencies: 80 m.

[Holiday Spirits Homebrew CW Sprint](#)--sponsored by the QRP ARCI, 2000Z-2400Z Dec 5. Frequencies (MHz)--1.810, 3.560, 7.040, 14.060, 21.060, 28.060 kHz.

### Dec 11-15

[ARRL 10 Meter Contest](#)--0000Z Dec 11-2400Z Dec 12.

[Great Colorado Snowshoe Run](#)--CW, sponsored by the Colorado QRP Club from 0200Z-0359Z Dec 11. Frequencies: 40 meters only.

[North American Meteor Scatter Contest](#)--any mode, sponsored by the WSJTGROUPE from 0000Z Dec 11-0700Z Dec 15 (the Geminids meteor shower). Frequencies (MHz): 50, 144, 222, 432, via meteor scatter.

### Dec 18-19

[OK DX RTTY Contest](#)--sponsored by the Czech Radio Club, 0000Z-2400Z Dec 18. Categories: SOAB (LP, HP >100W), SOSB, MOAB, SWL. Frequencies: 80-10 meters according to IARU band plan.

[Stew Perry Top Band Distance Challenge](#)--CW, sponsored by the Boring Amateur Radio Club, 1500Z Dec 18-1500Z Dec 19.

[PSK31 Death Match](#)--PSK31 and PSK63, sponsored by the Michigan DX Association, 0000Z Dec 18-2400Z Dec 19. Frequencies: 80-6 meters.

[Russian 160-Meter Contest](#)--CW/SSB--sponsored by *Radio Magazine*, from 0000Z-0200Z Dec 18. Croatian CW Contest--sponsored by Hrvatski Radioamaterski Savez (HRS), from 1400Z Dec 18-1400Z Dec 19. Frequencies: 160-10 meters.

### Dec 18-Jan 2

[RAC Winter Contest](#)--CW/Phone, sponsored by the Radio Amateurs of Canada, 0000Z-2359Z Dec 18. Frequencies (MHz): CW--25 kHz up from the band edge (check on the half hour), Phone--1.850, 3.775, 7.075, 7.225, 14.175, 21.250, 28.500, 50 and 144 MHz.

### Dec 25-26

[DARC Christmas Contest](#)--CW/SSB, sponsored by the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club, 0830Z-1100Z Dec 26. Frequencies (MHz): CW--3.510-3.560, 7.010-7.040, SSB--3.610-3.650 and 3.700-3.775, 7.040. Dec 31

[ARRL Straight Key Night](#)--see web link at beginning of this section.

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## Special Event (from Dec QST page 72)

### **Skywarn Recognition Day--December 4th--Storm Spotters Show their Dedication**

During the 24 hour event, Amateur Radio operators visit their local National Weather Service (NWS) office and work as a team to contact other hams across the world.

SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held from 0000UTC to 2400UTC on

December 4. Last year participants logged nearly 19,000 QSO's during the 24 hours event, over 120 station will be operating this year. To learn more, check out the Web site <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>.

I worked this Special Event last year and had so much fun, the QSL cards are some of my favorites.

73, Jerry / N9GGO

# KM0TO Newsletter – December 2004

## Award Status as of November 30, 2004:

| Paper QSL | Worked | Confirmed | Needed |
|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| WAS       | 49     | 9         | 50     |
| DXCC      | 3      | 1         | 100    |

| LotW | Worked | Confirmed | Needed |
|------|--------|-----------|--------|
| WAC  | n/a    | n/a       | 7      |
| WAS  | n/a    | n/a       | 50     |
| DXCC | 3      | 3         | 100    |

| eQSL.cc | Worked | Confirmed | Needed |
|---------|--------|-----------|--------|
| eDX     | 3      | 3         | 25     |
| eDX100  | 3      | 3         | 100    |
| eWAS    | 49     | 18        | 50     |

## QSO/QSL Standings as of November 30, 2004:

| QSO Totals | CW | SSB | Mixed |
|------------|----|-----|-------|
| November   | 0  | 343 | 343   |
| Cumulative | 12 | 493 | 505   |

| QSL Totals | Rcvd | Sent |
|------------|------|------|
| November   | 1    | 1    |
| Cumulative | 17   | 17   |

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## For Sale, Wanted, or Trade

**Yaesu FT-920 HF/6M (FT920) listing by Chad WE9V was SOLD.**

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KM0TO Motorola Amateur Radio Club (MARC) meeting-- Wednesday December 8th at Noon in the Holodeck Conference Room near Door A elevator on the second floor across from MW205. The club meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of each month.

Where to obtain more information

KM0TO club station and activities:  
<http://marc.comm.mot.com/marc/stations/km0to/>

Compass Link:  
<http://compass.mot.com/go/km0to>

A mailing list for correspondence between Motorolan Hams in the Libertyville area has been created. You are free to subscribe and unsubscribe as you wish. Subscription approval should be immediate.

To subscribe go to:

<http://maillist.mot.com/default.asp>

List name to sign up for is: "KM0TO1" without quotes - I SPELL "kilo mike zee-ro tango oscar wun"

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A special THANKS to Michelle (KC9BLP) for acting as co-editor for the newsletter releases in 2004.

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We intend to publish this newsletter monthly during the week prior to the monthly meeting. If you have a short article or a Sale/Trade/Wanted listing that you would like to submit for newsletter publishing, please forward it to Ken Willmott (KW9U). Thank you.

73, KM0TO Newsletter Staff