

## The TARC Reflector for November 2012

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### Hi Folks!

Just got back home from the Lawrenceville Hamfest, and jumped right in to work on this newsletter. I saw a good number of you there, and appreciate everyone who turned out for the GA-ARES forum. We had a lot of people stop by the ARRL booth, and I noted a number of you had some new “toys” to play with...the smiles were rampant!



Mike and Gene at the ARRL Booth

We move quickly to the meeting this Saturday, and as you know, it's the annual Fish Fry. I've heard from a few of you about your attendance, and hope Wynona has heard from a lot more. If you haven't contacted her yet, please do so NOW at [wysad1@yahoo.com](mailto:wysad1@yahoo.com).



The fare will be catfish and mullet, which the club handles, with side dishes from everyone else. As is customary, a donation jar will be placed out so that those of you who don't cook, but want to help, can add a few bucks in to offset the cost of the fish.

Due to the popularity of the catfish fillets we had last year, we voted to go strictly with them this time out...apologies to those of you who like to stack up the bones (Bobby, this means you!).



We'll have a short meeting afterwards, with the principal business being Officer Elections for 2013, and the presentation of awards for "Ham of the Year" and "Military Vet of the Year."

Due to the proximity of Thanksgiving, this will be our only meeting for the month, as the Midmonth Breakfast and Test Session will hinge on whether we have anyone coming out to take a test, which for this month and December will be by appointment only to keep from calling the VEs out and then having no one show up to test.

Again, if no one is taking a test, we'll also cancel the Midmonth Breakfast!

If you do want to take a test, the date would be November 17<sup>th</sup>, and I'll need to know by the 14<sup>th</sup> to schedule it. Contact me at [ke4fgf@arrl.net](mailto:ke4fgf@arrl.net).



We decided a few months ago to combine the December meeting and the “Closer to Christmas Party” into a family supper, so that meeting will take place on December 8<sup>th</sup> at Morningside Methodist Church, which is our new meeting site. The club will be providing turkey and ham and everyone attending will provide the side dishes. Please do contact Wynona with how many folks you’ll have with you, and what side dishes.

Also, I’d like to thank each of you for your cards, visits, thoughts and prayers while my mother was in the hospital this past month. She’s well on the road to recovery, and will be back in the swing of things with us in the near future.

So, that’s enough of me for the moment. I hope to see YOU and your families this weekend at Morningside for the annual Fish Fry. I know we’ll all have a LOT of fun and good eating. If you can’t make it, I wish you and yours a very blessed Thanksgiving!!

73,

*Mike*





## November Birthdays

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*The following members of the TARC Radio Family have November Birthdays:*

**Inez Faulk – Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Alice Childs – Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Lori Alberstadt – Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Russell Shirley – Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Debbie Myers – Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Lynelle Alligood – Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Kim Hearn – Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Jordan Moore – Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Farley Light – Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Nathaniel Lambert – Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Kaylie Hearn – Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Taylor James – Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>**

Don't see YOUR birthday? Let us know at [w4uci@arrl.net](mailto:w4uci@arrl.net)

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## November Test Session

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The Test Session this month will be by appointment only.

The designated date would be November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Thomas County EOC at 10am, and you'll need to let Mike know by Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, if you plan to take a test. Contact him at [ke4fgf@arrl.net](mailto:ke4fgf@arrl.net) or by phone at 229-224-5185.

We're doing this so that our VEs don't make a trip in and then have no one to test, so if you don't make an appointment, we WILL NOT be there!!

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### 10-10 Scholarship Applicant Information

Each year the 10-10 International Net, through our non-profit corporation, the 10-10 Scholarship Foundation, funds four \$1500 scholarships, which are administered on our behalf by the Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR). It is suggested that every 10-10 member encourage qualified college-bound amateur radio operators to take advantage of this opportunity. Over the past 25 years, 10-10 has funded 91 scholarships valued at \$97,000.

Applicants must be licensed amateurs. There is no restriction on the course of study, but applicants must intend to seek at least an Associate Degree from a college or university. Non-U.S. amateurs and those seeking graduate degrees are also eligible, as well as students who study outside the United States. Completed applications must be received by FAR prior to April 15th of each year.

Download an application from FAR's website: <http://www.farweb.org> or request an application from:

**FAR Scholarships**

**P.O. Box 911**

**Columbia, MD 21044-0911**

I would be glad to sponsor someone from the Thomasville area for this award.

Terry Webb, N0TW

[n0twterry@centurylink.net](mailto:n0twterry@centurylink.net)

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## A Note from Steve...

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I would like to thank the following people for their help with the Public Health event in Grady County on the afternoon of the 23rd.

Radio traffic was at a minimum due to this being a real event as well as an exercise for all departments of both the City of Cairo and Grady County.

All county government departments were stationed close together at the Incident Command Center, which was the Farmers Market in Cairo

The following stations helped us by checking in to the net;

**KE4FGF–WX4AMH**

**KW4EF–Thomas County E.O.C.**

**KJ4ZNK–Grady County E.O.C.**

**KE4RWR–Check in**

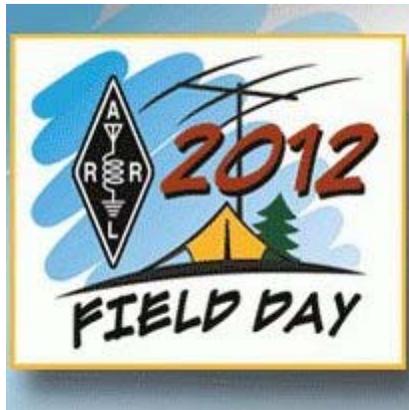
**KF4WF–Check in from Calvary**

Thanks to all once again who helped.

73,

*Steve*, KJ4UKR, Grady EC

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## 2012 Field Day Results!!

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**The results are in for the 2012 Field Day exercise, and despite losing 4 hours of operating time, TARC was still the #3 “4-Foxtrot” station in the US!**



**Tommy and the kids hard at it making contacts!**

**We were forced to vacate the EOC due to a storm in the Gulf. The operation shut down at roughly 10am on Sunday morning to allow the EOC to be set up for a weather briefing for county personnel.**

**Our score was also good for 8th overall in Georgia, and 334th of all stations who participated in the US.**

**Great Job Everyone!**

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## A note from N4NEL...

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Hi Everyone,

A number of years ago, Mike said “Mama, you need to study and take the Tech Test and get your Amateur License.” I thought to myself, “No Way – Not at my age!”

Time went on with gentle reminders that I should start studying for the test.

Finally, I decided that the only way to make Mike forget about it was to do it, so I did, and I have never regretted it!

So began TARC and N4NEL. I’ve grown to love our club and its members. All of you have helped me in so many ways, but especially in the last 3-4 weeks during my stay in the hospital.

Your visits, cards, emails, prayers, and the beautiful flowers that you brought me individually, as well as the beautiful plant the club sent helped me to believe that I was going to be all right, even though I felt like I’d been hit by a freight train!

There are no words to express how much all you’ve done in the past few weeks meant to me. I’ll never forget all the kindness you’ve shown me during a very difficult time in my life.

God Bless,

*Mama Nell* - N4NEL

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## TARC Minutes – October 6, 2012

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### 1) **Welcome and Announcements**

- a) The Midmonth Breakfast will be Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am, at Seminole Wind.
- b) The Test Session will be held Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> at the Thomas County EOC, at 10am. For the months of November and December the session will be by appointment only.
- c) The Boston Mini-Marathon will be held on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am. Plan on arriving around 7:15 for the tailgate breakfast. You do not want to miss this breakfast. Please let Mike know if you are going to attend by the Thursday Night Net before the marathon.

- 2) Minutes and Treasurer's Reports were accepted as presented.

### 3) **Old Business:**

- a) 195 Repeater – John was at home sick tonight and so there was no discussion on this. Mike did mention that Bill Benton had his work truck stolen and was working on recovery from that situation. Bill is our contact for tower access at Metcalf.
- b) PO Box mail is being forwarded to Bobby's home address. The club voted to get a new post office box at the Post Office on US 19.
- c) SET Results – Everyone agreed that today's SET went pretty well with some problems but all realize it was a learning experience. Each EC has a report that needs

to be filled out by Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, and it decided that each of our ECs should get together and work on getting the reports filled out correctly, assuring that we get all the points we are entitled to.

**4) New Business:**

- a) 2012 Nominations Committee – due to sickness, John was absent from this meeting but he will form a committee and have recommendations at the November meeting.
- b) Fish Fry Preps- We will be obtaining the fish from the same places, but will need to know how many people are coming as soon as possible, so we can get the correct amount. William volunteered to do the hush puppies. Everyone attending will need to contact Wynona so we'll know what the side dishes are going to be.
- c) New Venue for monthly meetings – As we continued to have problems with the Plaza, Mike led a discussion into a permanent move somewhere else. The first choices were the present location, Morningside Methodist, or the Thomas County EOC. Terry, NOTW, made a motion that we continue to meet here at the church. Motion so carried unanimously. It was also decided to put out the donation jar at each meeting to give a donation to the church for use of the facility.
- d) Arrow Antenna Project – Steve indicated he'd sold another order of Arrow J-Poles, and could also order more if the desire was there.

**5) *The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm with 27 members and 1 visitor present.***

Respectfully Submitted,

*Dana Swicard*, Secretary

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## Boston Mini Marathon

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We had a good turnout for the Boston Mini-Marathon this past weekend, and we'd like to recognize the following people who were involved:

First off, thanks to Wynona and Dana for providing a lot of good stuff for breakfast. The "Tailgate" makes it worth getting up really early!

The stations involved this year were: KF4HSM, KJ4GWB, KJ4KUJ, KJ4GON, KK4HYB, KW4EF, KK4DZB, KJ4UKR, KE4RWR, KJ4HVN, KC4LYC, KJ4KUK, WK4WK, Matt (where's that call sign Matt?), WD4CJI, KA3FZO, and KE4FGF.

Thanks to all who took part!!...Great Job!!

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### **Some Ideas for Emergency Readiness**

Being at the Lawrenceville Hamfest with the great Fall weather for the event got me to thinking about how lucky we've been this year in dodging some serious "weather bullets." Tropical Storm Sandy's devastation of the East Coast left some of my radio friends in that area without power for days and as this is written some

still don't have it. But a few of my East Coast radio buddies were prepared with backup power and I've worked them on 40 meters this week even though their electric grid is still not live.

And this got me to thinking about some projects I had started in early summer in an effort to be able to get on the air, both from home and portable, no matter how bad the weather conditions might be and whether I had power or not.

This article is not meant to be the ultimate how-to on emergency radio readiness, but rather how I did this for minimal expense. For me the basic need is to be able to hit the local 2 meter repeaters and carry on effective simplex communication if the repeaters are down. Being able to add HF to the mix is also a goal.

This is not a make believe system. At one time or another in the last few months you have heard me on the local repeater nets using just what I am going to describe. And I have used the HF setup to make contacts on several HF bands.

No matter what is going on or where we are, we need three things: power, a working transceiver, and an antenna system. That's a piece of cake if the weather is good. But what if we've got a tropical storm outside with lots of rain coming down, heavy winds, lightning, even falling branches that might take down both our power lines and our outside antennas?

Most of us have a working mobile rig and I know many of us default to using it in an emergency as it has its own power (as long as we have enough fuel) and an antenna attached. But what if the weather is so bad we don't even want to take it out of the garage? Or can't? Think downed power lines, trees falling, flooded streets. What if no fuel is available? So I prefer to think of my mobile rig as my "go kit" radio for going somewhere else that has a disaster, for public service events, but not necessarily for use in a local disaster that is affecting me directly.

So let's start with VHF/UHF. Like most hams I have a few Handi-Talkies for VHF and UHF. Most of them have one great feature for running on auxiliary power, which is often called "power saver" or some similar name. Essentially the radio goes to sleep for a fixed percentage of the time, making the battery last much

longer than normal. So maybe for a day or so I might eke out all I need from a fully charged internal HT battery. But that's a big "might."

To be on the safe side I have a few 12 volt 7 and 8 ampere hour Sealed Lead Acid batteries (SLAs) that are always charged and ready to go. Just one of these has five or six times the capacity of my internal battery pack.

I found a special three stage charger made for SLA batteries on sale for \$15 at a local outlet store and I make sure to top off the batteries every couple of months.

I have had one of these batteries in use since 2006 and it was used when I got it. I've added to my collection at various swapmeets over the years and now have four. They were all pulled from various types of service but all still hold a charge well. In commercial use, these batteries are often replaced on a schedule whether



they need to be or not.

One of these batteries will run an HT on receive for days, using the proper manufacturer's 12 volt adapter and using the power saver setting. If I add some transmission time into the mix I'll still get a couple of days out of each battery. So that takes care of my power needs for VHF and UHF. Yes I'm limited to 5 watts using the HTs, but that's really not much of a limitation.

What is a limitation is that I live far enough away from any repeater that I can't hit any of them with the rubber duck on the HT from inside the house. And for simplex the duck is going to be useless. So getting an antenna outside makes all the difference.

I've found very simple antennas outside need not be very high to hit repeaters out to about 25 or 30 miles and run simplex out 5 to 10 miles. To work farther I need

only get the antenna up about 12 feet at my location. At different times I've used cheap dual band mag mounts on barbeque grills or anything else metal (for a ground plane) handy, J-poles on short masts, or even the dual band mobile antenna on the back of my car. Your attic might be another alternative, but over the years I've found that there can be as much as 10db signal loss having the antenna in the attic vs outside. So I prefer outside. And for now I've settled on an Arrow J-pole on a short telescoping mast. Depending on conditions it can be anywhere from 6 to 20 feet off the ground.

So I've gotten myself situated on VHF and UHF, but how about HF? On receive those same type of SLA batteries will power most radios for quite some time. But how long really depends on your radio's current draw on receive. Make sure the HF radio you want to use draws less than an amp on receive and preferably closer to a half amp or so. This is a case where simpler is usually better, and a lot of the early solid state rigs have lower current draw than their more modern microprocessor and feature laden successors.

In most HF situations the amount of transmit is a small fraction of the receive time. If you keep the power output down to 25 watts or so you will extend the battery life and still be able to be heard in most situations, as you'll only be an S unit or so lower than a 100 watt station. I was fortunate enough to acquire a 24 amp hour SLA battery in a radio deal and I keep it ready full time for use solely on HF.

OK I've got some juice for my HF rig but what if ALL my antennas have blown down? JAWS to the rescue.



This type of mount, available from many hamfest and online vendors can be mounted on almost anything that will hold it. The jaws open wider than any other mount I've found. In this picture it is holding a Hamstick type antenna on a standard metal field fence post about 4 feet off the ground. The fence is serving as ground, like your metal car frame and skin would in a mobile situation. If all you have is a wood to mount the Jaws mount to it is easy to add some ground radials to the mount.

No this antenna won't work like a high dipole but it will get you on the air with a signal and you will not be wondering if the antenna is still up there with every gust of wind. Or if you are still going to be there with every thunder clap.

Here's another picture of the Jaws mount close-up. It costs around \$25.



Don't forget you can mount a VHF or UHF antenna on this as well; it has a standard 3/8 x 24 mount on it but that can be replaced with the UHF mount or even an NMO adapter if need be.

Another alternative for getting an antenna working in a hurry is the tripod plate from <http://www.earchi.org> with some hardware bought locally.



This picture shows the basic idea. The tripod plate is \$18 postage paid from the Hawaii group that sells them as a fund raiser. The legs are 5 foot pieces of half inch EMT conduit which cost around \$1.50 each from the big home store in my town. The additional hardware to hold the legs and for a ground wire connection (if needed) was less than \$5.00. The picture shows a "beehive" mobile mount on the tripod plate, which came from a Hamfest vendor for around \$10, but the design allows for a 4th piece of conduit running up vertically to which you can attach almost any antenna that will fit.

Here's a closeup of the mount -



What I like about this is that you can put this in harm's way and not worry about the thing breaking. What's to break? If it blows over pick it back up. If it is windy guy it with some nylon fishing or mason's line. It is easy to configure for just about any antenna that will fit on it and stores in a very small space. For storage I keep mine with all but one leg removed and bungie all the legs together. I keep 40 and 20 meter hamstick type antennas around to use on it. They work fine. You can ask me about all the DX I've worked while testing them :-)

In case you need to put up something for NVIS on 75 meters in a hurry make a zip-cord dipole from a 100 foot roll and feed it through a tuner. Just strip out about

62 feet of the zip cord for the dipole legs and leave the rest tied together. Secure the spot where the zip cord separates with a zip tie or electrician's knot. That remaining 38 foot part is part of your feedline. Tie in some coax at the end of the zip cord feed and run the coax back to your tuner. Get it up in the air somehow when the weather gets more normal. Yes I have one of these coiled up in the garage, just in case.

If you don't have the room for a 125 foot antenna for 75 meters, use one of the fence mounted mobile mounts and just 60 to 65 feet of wire on the hot side to any reasonably high thing you can find. Notice I did not recommend a hamstick for 75, though you might get one to work, anything longer that you can tune will work better. And since we need to send our signals straight up for NVIS type propagation, something mostly horizontal (sloped is fine) is going to work better than a mobile whip. Just make sure you have some kind of ground for the antenna to work against.

There are many ways to get on during a big storm but the trick is to stay on. The main thing is to get all your systems working and tested ahead of time, when the sun is shining and the wind is calm, so you don't have to improvise when the storm hits.

And of course your solution may be vastly different from mine. There are many ways to skin this cat. You may have the budget for a full time fossil fuel generator, solar panels, (I plan on adding some to my simple system) the new Li-Po type batteries, whatever and however you want to do it is great. The main thing is just to do it.

If there is a takeaway from this article I hope it is that it motivates you to get some off grid capability for your home station. I rest a lot easier knowing that I'm ready to go if and when the "Big One" hits. Like I learned in the Boy Scouts, "Be Prepared." I don't have to scramble to be ready.

I AM ready now.

Resources

Jaws Mount - <http://www.k1cra.com/catalog/category.aspx?categoryID=29>

Tripod Plate - <http://www.earchi.org/92011endfedfiles/Tripod.pdf>

73 and as always any questions or comments to ny4dradio@gmail.com

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# Weather Center

Fall is upon us and the months of November and December often bring a period of elevated severe weather in our area. When deep troughs form in the eastern half of the nation it provides an opportunity for severe weather parameters to come together in the southeast. This scenario greatly increases our chances for severe weather. The high shear environment associated with these systems also increases the risk for tornado development when compared to summer months.

When is our area at the greatest risk for tornados? Let's look at the six western most Georgia counties that border Florida, starting in Lowndes and going west from there to Seminole. When we look at historical data, we find that 101 tornados have been recorded since 1910 for these counties. Of those, 70 tornados have occurred during the period of October to April, the table below shows this data. The tornado strength on the original Fujita scale or the newer EF scale is listed as well.

Month	Number of Tornados	F0 or EFO	F1 or EF1	F2 or EF2	F3 or EF3	Greater than F3 or EF3
October	4	0	2	2	0	0
November	7	0	6	1	0	0
December	3	0	0	2	1	0
January	8	0	2	6	0	0
February	15	1	7	4	3	0

March	12	4	3	5	0	0
April	20	0	10	10	0	0

ORIGINAL FUJITA SCALE			NEW OPERATIONAL EF SCALE	
F Number	Fastest 1/4-mile (mph)	3 Second Gust (mph)	EF Number	3 Second Gust (mph)
0	40-72	45-78	<b>0</b>	<b>65-85</b>
1	73-112	79-117	<b>1</b>	<b>86-110</b>
At				
2	113-157	118-161	<b>2</b>	<b>111-135</b>
3	158-207	162-209	<b>3</b>	<b>136-165</b>
4	208-260	210-261	<b>4</b>	<b>166-200</b>
5	261-318	262-317	<b>5</b>	<b>Over 200</b>

As the cold front conveyor belt begins to turn, the risk for severe weather begins as well. It's easy to see from this information that November can be a time of severe weather with 7 tornados on record for the month. Even with a modest ranking of 5th on the list, we should be prepared for the possibility of tornadic weather.

Clearly the key months of concern for us for tornado development occur after the first of the year starting in February and lasting through the month of April. Three of the four F3 tornadoes occurred in February and 19 of the 30 F2 tornadoes have occurred in the months of February, March and April making this not only the peak tornado season but the peak season for strong to violent tornados.

Stewart Chandler

KJ4GOJ



## TARC Salutes our Military Veterans

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Every year, our Radio Family honors those members who put their lives on hold to serve in the Military and protect our freedoms. It is an honor for us to do so.

TARC was started back in the 1950's by a group largely composed of WWII Veterans, and the club has always had a large number of these men and women in our ranks. The following list represents some of those people and their branch of service, and is in no way indicative of all the Vets who have been members of our group.

**Billy Joe Lewis – US Army**

**Ken Lanter – US Navy**

**Joe Carroll – US Navy**

**Shug Carroll – US Army**

**Lawrence McCuthin – US Army**

**Walter Childs – USAF**

**Steve Williams – US Navy**

**Ray Philips – US Navy**

**Fred Brown – US Army**

**Ray Prim – USMC**

**Ray Hendricks – USMC**

**JC Brown – US Navy**

**Charles Fiering – US Army**

**Gene Clark – US Navy**

**Robbie Pitts – US Army**

**Paul Wittenborn – US Army**

**Michael Wittenborn – US Army**

**Ben Faulk – US Army**

**Ray Mote – USMC and USAF**

**Angie Mote – USAF**

**Dan Farnsworth – US Army**

**Howard Young – US Navy**

**Jim Pinson – USAF**

**William Cato – US Navy**

**John Blanton – US Navy**

**F.W. Donovan – US Army**

**Terry Webb – US Navy**

**Larry Bostic – US Navy**

**Charles Mc Pherson – US Army**

**Joe McMurray – US Navy**

**William Kornegay Sr. - US Army**

**William Kornegay JR. – US Army**

**Dorinda Lambert – US Army**

**Wayne Lambert Jr. –US Army**

**Wayne Lambert Sr. – USAF**

**Shane Lambert – US Army**

**Dwight Harvey – US Army**

**Steve Godbehere – US Navy**

**John Godbehere – US Navy**

**Howard Cooper – US Navy**

**Anita Blanton – US Navy Waves**

**James Wetherington – USAF**

We are deeply honored to have these people in our ranks, and humbly honor their sacrifice...



In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
between the crosses, row on row,  
that mark our place; and in the sky  
the larks, still bravely singing, fly  
scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
the torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
we shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

John McCrae