

RSARS RALLY REPORTS No. 77

Amateur Radio in the Country Rally 21st July 2013 Long Sutton

I attended, for the first time, the ARiC Rally, held in one of the remoter parts of Somerset. ARiC stands for "Amateur Radio in the Country", a little Bohemian in aspect and layout, but a really nice setting on a large Farm.

There was camping on the Saturday evening, with a Barn Dance and Hog Roast across the road as a Charity event, but I chose to go up on the Sunday morning, being a non-drinker nowadays. There was ample parking, and I had the choice of an inside or outside location. I felt that the barn location would be better, and I had plenty of room to set out my stall.

Nowadays I put my only civilian radio on the table to show that, although we are a Military Society, we are very much an Amateur Radio Society, using kit of our choice, and I am working to help people understand this. I show British and Russian man-packs purely as talking points to get people interested in the stand.

This year, apparently, the attendance was as good as usual, about 250 people or so, with 20 or so stall-holders. There was some very cheap stuff on the stalls, but a number of the stalls were showing private collections, mainly of military equipment in various states of dis-order. It did seem to me that not a lot of money was being spent on the radio stalls, but the food stall and beer-bar were going great guns.

It was a very informal do, with no start or finish times, but most of us were packed up ready to go for 1430 hrs. It took most of the morning to get my first sale, 5 log-books at the special price of £8, then there was a bit of a rush on to sell 5 antenna books, the last one going as I finished loading the car, having to excavate it from the bottom of the pile of kit. I should mention here that one has to supply one's own table and, as I don't own a "tables, 6ft, G.S. folding" or the like, I took two work benches and the top of an old small table and made up a bench with the aid of some blocks.

I also issued 1 membership application form to a one-time REME vehicle mechanic. Let's hope we hear him on the RSARS frequencies soon.

All in all, a very pleasant day in the country, and a Rally worth visiting.

73/MFG Tony, G4BCX, RSARS



The above picture is of Tony/G4BCX Rally Stall at the ARiC Rally