

RSARS RALLY REPORTS No.85

Exeter Radio & Electronics Rally Report 2nd March 2014

On Sunday March 2nd, I attended The Exeter Radio Rally in the America Hall, Pinhoe, Exeter. The Rally used to be held in just the main hall, but now it has spread to an adjoining room as well, though, to be fair, it is three-quarters occupied by one Trader.

155 people came through the door, and there 25 traders and 5 staff, giving 185 potential customers. We don't have a big military presence amongst the local amateurs, but there are a few, all regulars at all the local rallies, and all have been spoken to on the subject of purchases from my stand. Some have spent money with me in the past, but now, with everyone actually, there has been a move away from spending money and towards regarding it as a social event. I understand that this is becoming the form all over the U.K. The problem with talking, of course, is that it is an excuse to put one's hands in one's pockets and leave them there. I did manage to sell an antenna book though. All the locals have at least two now, due to previous efforts.

I did have a rather interesting visit from an Amateur from Dorset, who gave me some memorabilia from one John Walker, G3UDU, late of the Royal Signals, now deceased. I have passed this information on to Jim Heck, hoping that a home could be found for it at the Headquarters Station in Blandford Camp. I hope so, as he appears to have been no mean operator.

I attach a photo of my stand and myself. I was rather cramped and rammed up against the refreshment area, so I couldn't put up my dummy with the PRC320 on his back, but that can wait for another time. I would summarise the event as a happy occasion, first local Rally of the year, and I just hope for happier financial times in the future.

73/MFG Tony Helm, G4BCX, RSARS

