

SANGSTER SHIELD 2026 RESULTS

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Thanks to all who took part this 99th year of the Sangster Contest.

I have counted a total of 16 participants this year representing 13 Branches. A total of 10 entries across 9 Branches plus a check log for one further Branch were received, leaving just three Branches without any record of contacts. Some were obviously low in contact numbers but I have allowed all since deletions would not have changed placegetters positions. One contact only, recorded & claimed for ZL1ANY Branch 12, appears to be in error & more likely to be for ZL1AJY Bch 29.

Mid Southern & Central regions seemed to have had the best of band conditions this year. While I experienced good band conditions in Wellington, local noise & QSB reports came in from many.

VK2EZF was the lone VK claimed by many entrants & for some on many occasions. His last report recorded in logs received was his 10th contact at 22:45 so he was a valuable participant. Low band DX is not so common at this point in sunspots & Bill ZL3VZ also noted Solar disturbance with A Index of 35.

Open Section Leader board

Congratulations to our Open Section winner Bill Cousins ZL3VZ with Barry Davenport ZL2LN & myself ZL2KZ both 2nd equal. This is Bill's 5th Open win, tilting toward the milestone of Paul Slako ZL1PC with 8 past wins.

Bill operates from Marlborough Sounds near Portage with his QRP Labs QCX Transceiver & is taking advantage of superior operation, low noise level, nearby salty "ground" & maybe? mains free power.

As Open Section winner, Bill ZL3VZ automatically wins the Arthur Stevens (South Island) Trophy this year with Barry Davenport ZL2LN 2nd Place and Grant Daniel ZL2GD 3rd. This is Bill's 8th win in this section.

It is pleasing to welcome 3 newcomers on the Transistor Trophy podium this year with ZL1NZ Neil Sanderson 1st, ZL1TSS Tony Barrett 2nd & ZL4UC Neil Cockburn 3rd. Neil (ZL4UC) provided a check log last year but did not register as a Contest entrant.

Only one Branch (Motueka 24) provided 2 entrants & hence once again the Tony Fletcher (ZL2ALJ) Memorial Trophy is not awarded this year.

The 13 qualifying active Branches were: - 16,22,24,29,30,50,54,63,68,78,86,88 and 89.

Only one undeclared dupe was found, declared & corrected by the station worked. Computer logging has almost eliminated dupes these days.

A number of entrants recorded incorrect Branch numbers based on their first contact copy which was then forever cloned by N1MM. I did not disallow any but an occasional sanity check would be encouraged.

Our check log station thought he sent Branch 93 rather than 63 on occasions & sure enough some logs faithfully recorded this. I counted these all as 63 of course. Impeccable accuracy guys!

Comments received

- ZL1s & 4s remained consistent & good to see VK2EZF taking part
- Thanks to unusually low noise I was finally able to participate in a SS
- Disappointing amount of support for Contest. Conditions OK. Band was nice & quiet
- Band was quite noisy & signals well down on normal. All in all still good fun
- I really missed the 'old' version of two nights as this seemed to encourage the odd extra station from ZL and VK. It also helped with the numbers if propagation was poor on one of the two nights.
- Boring. Not enough activity. Thinks its time this contest is discontinued as shown by the poor number of entrants. ZL Sprint is much better formula!
- A few unhappy moments when paddle took on a life of its own. Overall a very positive experience
- Band conditions in Dunedin were reasonable. Patience shown by experienced operators for a new operator was appreciated
- S1 noise level reported from one location

Publicity

Thanks to Jim (ZL2BHF) for carrying news items in official broadcasts, to the NZART Contest Manager Geoff ZL3GA for his timely support. Also, to HQ for Infoline & NZART Home Page with Contest calendar links reminding Sangster dates, times & rules well in advance.

As per the NZART website Rules PDF Certificates will be emailed to the relevant winners & place getters.

I hope we can get a record turnout for our 100th Sangster Anniversary next year. Mark Saturday 15th May 2027 in the diary.

Sangster Shield Results 2026									
Sangster Shield - Open Section [* indicates South Island entrant eligible for Arthur Stevens Trophy]									
Place	Station	Name	NZ	DX	Bchs	Pwr	Total	Branch	Equipment
*1	ZL3VZ	Bill Cousins	62	3	12	5w	4080	22	QRP Labs QCX Xcvr, 80m 1/2W Dipole
*2=	ZL2LN	Barry Davenport	55	0	12	5w	3300	24	Yaesu FT847, 80/40 Trapped Dipole
2=	ZL2KZ	Glenn Kingston	54	3	11	5w	3300	50	Y'su FT1000MP, 5/8w off centre 5-15m up, Super Key2
*4	ZL2GD	Grant Daniel	49	2	11	5w	2915	68	Icom 7300, Inverted Vee up 10m
5	ZL1NZ	Neil Sanderson	52	0	10	5w	2600	86	Icom 7610, Doublet 8m high
7	ZL2F	Tony Marr	46	0	9	5w	2070	54	Icom 7610, Low Inverted Vee
*6	ZL3PAH	Phil Holliday	35	1	11	5w	2035	24	Elecraft K3S, Full size 1/4 wave Vertical, 25 radials
8	ZL2AQL	Mike Spearman	33	0	8	5w	1320	88	Yaesu FT450D, Wire Dipole
9	ZL1TSS	Tony Barrett	27	0	8	5w	1080	89	Xeigu G90m, Aerial 51OCF Inv. Vee Dipole 10m centre
^10	ZL4UC	Neil Cockburn	22	0	6	5w	660	30	QRP Labs QCX Radio, 80m Dipole
Transistor Trophy (first time Sangster contest entrant)									
1	ZL1NZ	Neil Sanderson	52	0	10	5w	2600	86	Icom 7610, Doublet 8m high
2	ZL1TSS	Tony Barrett	27	0	8	5w	1080	89	Xeigu G90m, Aerial 51OCF Inv. Vee Dipole 10m centre
3	ZL4UC	Neil Cockburn	22	0	6	5w	660	30	QRP Labs QCX Radio, 80m Dipole
Arthur Stevens South Island Trophy (Top "3" only)									
1	ZL3VZ	Bill Cousins	62	3	12	5w	4080	22	QRP Labs QCX Xcvr, 80m 1/2W Dipole
2	ZL2LN	Barry Davenport	55	0	12	5w	3300	24	Yaesu FT847, 80/40 Trapped Dipole
3	ZL2GD	Grant Daniel	49	2	11	5w	2915	68	Icom 7300, Inv. Vee up 10m
Tony Fletcher (ZL2ALJ) Memorial Trophy Branch Award (miniature permanent trophy via Bch 50 to winning bch)									
			No Award this year. - No Branch listed above had 3 Entrants						
Checklog									
	ZL4BDG	Ben Gilbert	With Thanks				63	Worked 1&1/2 Hrs Icom IC7300, Random wire antenna	