Cryptic Puzzle | TOM TOCE

Two-Wheeler

Both the clockwise answers and counterclockwise answers start with the outer circle letter, then the inner circle letter. This means the clockwise words will be entered 1-2-3-4 etc., but the counterclockwise ones will read 99-100-97-98, etc. Clue lengths and starting points beyond the first clues are for the solver to determine.

All 26 letters in the alphabet are used. There are five proper nouns, one common abbreviation, and one foreign word. Everything else is playable in Scrabble. Ignore punctuation, which is designed to confuse.

Thanks to Eric Klis and Bob Fink for test-solving and editorial suggestions.

Clockwise Clues

- 1. Precarious traps for one who must avoid fat
- 2. Listen, any kind of female bird sits on Noah's boat
- 3. Contraceptive device I used at first: a bit of withdrawal somewhat before the finish
- 4. Herb womanises surreptitiously
- Veranda's quiet orchestra off by a third
- 6. Atria renovated for Crown
- Like some gems around Colorado: bright at a very young age
- 8. Stone thrown at amanuensis
- 9. Somebody won, according to the radio
- **10.** One of a pair of subatomic particles makes an appearance? (two words)
- 11. Lowest price offered in Florida, love, and Oregon
- 12. Good new retrospective on singer Stefani
- Get lost in fornication with former lover after swapping
- 14. A surprise is partly open
- 15. Millions lost by many—whatever
- **16.** Under the aegis of five Israeli Army leaders
- 17. The sun! God, Ira, I should skedaddle

- Take a peek quickly—it's one of the Dionne kids
- 19. Accessory for cabaret singer, federal revenue agent, and sea captain
- 20. Tastelessness surrounding sleepover craze

Counterclockwise clues

- a. Swordman's mark on wide expanse of water
- b. Oblique, like the Italian New Testament
- c. Obstacle offered by atom reconfiguration
- d. Box containing notorious terrorist? Quite the opposite
- e. The most luminous "star" in the universe appearing inside Massapequa's Arena
- f. Like tendrils of victory in the middle of Runnymede
- g. Indian chief turning 14

- h. Assess one car for hire
- i. Not as old as Boston's last pitcher
- j. Play left, right, or center and make an error
- k. Lend out over the phone? A little forlorn
- 1. Suggests prison songs?
- **m.** According to legend, Sioux see concern from the French
- **n.** Chick well known in jazz circles singing country
- o. Both sides score as expected with bonds
- **p.** Conservative hero confused by drudgery
- **q.** A little swig upon returning to Galileo's birthplace
- r. Dunkin getting order from dull sort
- s. Top off a small quantity of dirt
- t. Spar imaginatively with guttural sounds

TOM TOCE is a senior manager for actuarial services with Ernst & Young in New York and is a member of the Jeopardy Hall of Fame.

Solutions may be emailed to thomas.toce@ey.com. In order to make the solver list, your solutions must be received by Mar. 31, 2015.

Previous Issue's Puzzle–Pass the Trash

First Round (seven letters)

 STANZAS – STAS ("Stations") around

 A + NZ ("a New Zealand")

 BOTHERS – BROTHERS ("siblings")

 R ("without a bit of regret")

 LOOKERS – Letters #1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36,

 and 49 ("Squares of") "lemons or

 oranges, King Crab legs, and butter

 graced people's"

 GRENADE – GRENADINE

 ("pomegranate syrup") - IN ("losing chic")

 CLIENTS – Anagram of "stencil"

 REALISE – Homophone of REAL

 EYES ("true vision")

 DORMANT – DORM ("college

DORMANT–DORM ("college residence hall") + ANT ("worker")

Second Round (seven letters)

MANTRAS—TRA ("Singable syllable") inside MANS BRONZES—B ("British") + R ("run") + "zones" anagrammed HOOTERS—Anagram of "Shooter" KEGLERS—KEGGERS ("Beer parties") with L ("50") "for the Fourth" (letter) CANDIES—CAN ("butt") + DIES SALIENT—Anagram of "saltine" LEOTARD—LEOPARD – P ("giving up power") adding T ("taking territory")

Third Round (seven letters)

ENAMORS—Anagram of "ran some" BOATERS—Anagram of "at Boers" SNOOZER—Outside of SNOwplow/ bulldOZER SHELTER—LT (lieutenant from "Sergeant's superior") inside SHEER ("utter") SACKING—SAC (first letters of "salvos

at Charles") + KING ("William, most likely")

SLANTED—SLA(N)TED ("Scheduled around noon")

TRAILED—T(R)AILED ("Followed around, right")

Fourth Round (seven letters)

MAESTRO—Anagram of "Same rot" TREASON—Anagram of "Senator" BOOZERS—BOO ("show disapproval") + ZERO - O ("mostly no") + S ("hint

of sobriety")

RELENTS—RE ("regarding") + LENTS ("the weeks after Mardi Gras, this year and next")

HACKING—HA ("Laugh") + CK ("funny Louis," i.e., comedian Louis C. K.) + IN + G ("the middle of Pyongyang")

DENTALS—ACCIDENTALS ("sharps and flats") - ACCI ("after the count of four")

DERAILS—Anagram of "dialers"

Showdown (five letters)

ROAST—TSAR ("Nicholas, for one") reversed around O ("the first of October")

SNORE—NOR ("Neither partner") inside SE ("Southeast")

BOZOS–BEZOS ("Amazon man") substituting O for E ("with love for energy")

SLEET—SEATTLE - AT CHINK—C ("cup") + H ("hot") + INK DELTA—Anagram of "Dealt" DIALS—Anagram of "Silda"

Secret to cryptic puzzles REARRANGEMENTS

Solvers

Michael and Jina Accardo, Dean Apps, Damian Birnstihl, Bob Campbell, Lois Cappellano, Chris Carlson, Jonathan Currier, Todd Dashoff, Mick and Kris Diede, Sean Donohoe, Josh DenHartog, and Christine Liu dba T.O.C.E (The Thousand Oaks Cryptic Enthusiasts), Patrick Donovan, Greg Dreher, Deb Edwards, Bob Fink, Phil Gollance, Rich Harder, Pete Hepokoski, Catharine Hornby, Ruth Johnson, Brian Klimek, Eric Klis, Paul Kolell, Ken Kudrak, Adrienne Lewis, Charlie Linn, Tim Luker, Jerry Miccolis, Jon Michelson, Lee Michelson, Becky Moody, Jim Muza, David & Corinne Promislow, Daniel Rhodes, Bill Scott, Sally Jane Smith, Doug Szper, Jon Turnes, Dave Wallman

Player 1

Round 1: STANZAS Round 2: MANTRAS Round 3: ENAMORS Round 4: MAESTRO Showdown: ROAST

Player 2

Round 1: BOTHERS Round 2: BRONZES Round 3: BOATERS Round 4: TREASON Showdown: SNORE

Player 3

Round 1: LOOKERS Round 2: HOOTERS Round 3: SNOOZER Round 4: BOOZERS Showdown: BOZOS

Player 4

Round 1: GRENADE Round 2: KEGLERS Round 3: SHELTER Round 4: RELENTS Showdown: SLEET

Player 5

Round 1: CLIENTS Round 2: CANDIES Round 3: SACKING Round 4: HACKING Showdown: CHINK

Player 6

Round 1: REALISE Round 2: SALIENT Round 3: SLANTED Round 4: DENTALS Showdown: DELTA

Player 7

Round 1: DORMANT Round 2: LEOTARD Round 3: TRAILED Round 4: DERAILS Showdown: DIALS

Anagram from the discards yielding the secret to cryptic puzzles (if not life): REARRANGEMENTS