

Solution to Puzzle #158 – July, 2014 "Hotspot"

P	O	T	A	S	G	R	O	M	E	R
R	U	A	N	T	R	E	V	E	R	S
E	S	M	E	L	A	V	E	R	S	A
L	T	I	N	E	V	E	R	G	E	F
U	R	N	A	C	E	R	C	E	D	E
D	E	A	T	H	V	A	L	L	E	Y
E	M	P	I	R	E	L	O	E	S	S
P	A	E	V	I	R	U	S	S	T	O
R	K	R	E	S	O	L	E	S	O	V
I	E	T	J	O	N	G	T	A	Y	E
L	S	C	O	M	A	R	E	V	E	L

The omitted letters (in parentheses in the list below) spell
HOTTEST PLACE ON EARTH

Across

1. POTAS(H)
2. GR(O)OMER
3. (T)RUANT
4. REVERSE
5. SMEL(T)
6. AVER
7. SALTINE
8. VERGE
9. FURNACE
10. R(E)CEDE
11. **DEATH VALLEY**
12. EMPIRE
13. LOE(S)S
14. SPA(T)E
15. VIRUS
16. STORK
17. RESOLE
18. SOVIET
19. JONG
20. TA(P)
21. YE(L)LS
22. COMA
23. REVE(A)L

Down

1. PRE(C)LUDE
2. P(E)RILOUS
3. T(O)RE
4. MAKE
5. STAMINA
6. PERT
7. CANE
8. NATIVE
9. JOSTLE
10. CHRISOM
11. GRAVE(N)
12. VERONA
13. REVER(E)
14. ALUL(A)
15. GROVER
16. CLOSET
17. EMERGE
18. LESS
19. AVERSE
20. DEST(R)OYER
21. SAFE(T)Y
22. S(H)OVEL

Kevin Wald solved the puzzle in 25 minutes.