

Solution to Puzzle #88 – September, 2008 "Back to Back"

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

The omitted letters (in parentheses in the list below) spell **MAKE ENDS MEET**, suggesting that every other word in the grid be reversed so that its end meets that of the preceding word.

Across

1. MOUSE
2. CO(M)PETE
3. ANTHR(A)X
4. MISHMASH
5. ACHE
6. CARAT
7. TOKYO
8. ANAL
9. ROOTER
10. DETER
11. STRAND
12. REGENT
13. DETENTE
14. LI(K)ENED
15. AVENUE
16. DUCAL
17. NAVAL
18. RET(E)LL
19. DERANG(E)
20. IRAS
21. MARBLE
22. PACI(N)G

Down

1. MASCOT
2. (D)RUID
3. MONITOR
4. ADDLE
5. UTMO(S)T
6. RENATA
7. SHAKEN
8. BRAVE
9. (M)ERCY
10. LAVEND(E)R
11. EXHORT
12. TENANT
13. HELEN
14. GLUE
15. GESTATED
16. ISLE
17. PA(E)AN
18. ALLEGE
19. COMRADE
20. (T)ARTAN
21. CHARS
22. PIECER

Kevin Wald solved the puzzle in 50 minutes.