

# Puzzle #154 — March 2014 "Straight"

**Instructions:** Guess the words defined by the cryptic clues (answers vary in length from three to eleven letters, and one is capitalized) then enter them in the grid one after another in the same order as their clues, starting in the upper left corner. Across words that don't end at the right continue on the next row, and down words that don't end at the bottom continue in the next column. Nine down words won't fit in the grid unless one of their letters is omitted. Taken in order, they spell a two-word phrase related to five across words hidden in the grid. Thanks to Kevin Wald for test-solving and editing this puzzle.


## Across

- 1. Fidel talking about a letter
- 2. Hub of recent reorganization
- 3. To be late is initially taxing
- 4. Pleased about facility
- 5. A sailor going back for a set of maps
- 6. Monarch loses great grandfather, maybe
- 7. Seed of resistance set in stone
- 8. Mary Jane and male member of parliament
- 9. Stain knits with a colored liquid
- 10. Damage or mar protective covering
- 11. Drink and fall, having gotten one for nothing
- 12. Odd quote: "something worn on the head"
- 13. Inside of pelt has label for coat
- 14. Remove English instrument
- 15. Leave, having walked back around end of dam
- 16. Back edge making mark on screen
- 17. Herb's mature
- 18. Carol is Alice's middle name
- 19. Sign, fold, and strike
- 20. Rule of regular army judge
- 21. Admit current kicker now has large advantage
- 22. Understood part of obscure address
- 23. Choice western brew
- 24. Actively oppose sister's flying
- 25. Resentment about love for messenger

## Down

- 1. Used up and taken out without pressure
- 2. Intense heat of hard organ
- 3. Look at Maxine flirting with Earl
- 4. Challenge of morning agenda
- 5. Back talk about southern speech defect
- 6. Peter has to get a top grade for speed
- 7. Prank started initially in plane
- 8. Runner beginning to pop and hop
- 9. Disease seen in Iowa after false alarm
- 10. Child, in delight, made new sound
- 11. Comic enterprise captivates Mickey et al.
- 12. Sound observed in clip from movie
- 13. Seaweed and head of lettuce substituted for last of kale in hold
- 14. Takes off to glide
- 15. An entrance in marble
- 16. Prohibition covers rare husks of grain
- 17. Thick part of wooden seat
- 18. A list of names in part called aloud
- 19. Reveals how Neptune's brought into view
- 20. Meter maid has period
- 21. As has Illinois bird
- 22. Women hail swell
- 23. Sum of money order held by mother's sister
- 24. Lack of color red in room is dull ultimately
- 25. There's dancing between 2 and 4
- 26. Fast, small, well guarded running back gaining yards