

Entering Standard Orbit

by Ucaoimhu and Ensign Metag

This puzzle was 20 years in the making. That is:

(A) The Across clues were written in the present day, and all work normally. However:

(1) In honor of one florally nommed redactrix, six answers must be entered with an extra fivefold ornamentation, and six must have a set of letters rearranged and combined into a certain appropriate symbol.

(2) Because the constructor is a cryptic crossword constructor, six answers must be entered cryptically, and the six other answers (which are entered normally) form an appropriate cryptic clue.

All altered entries will be (if nonalphabetic symbols are ignored) words; three of these are proper nouns.

(D) The Down clues were written ~20 years ago, and their answers are entered normally. However, in honor of a certain Starfleet officer and her ship, each clue contains one letter that must be changed before solving:

(1) Half of the clues each *should* have an f that isn't present on the page; fortunately, one letter in each has the secret ability to turn into awol f, at will.

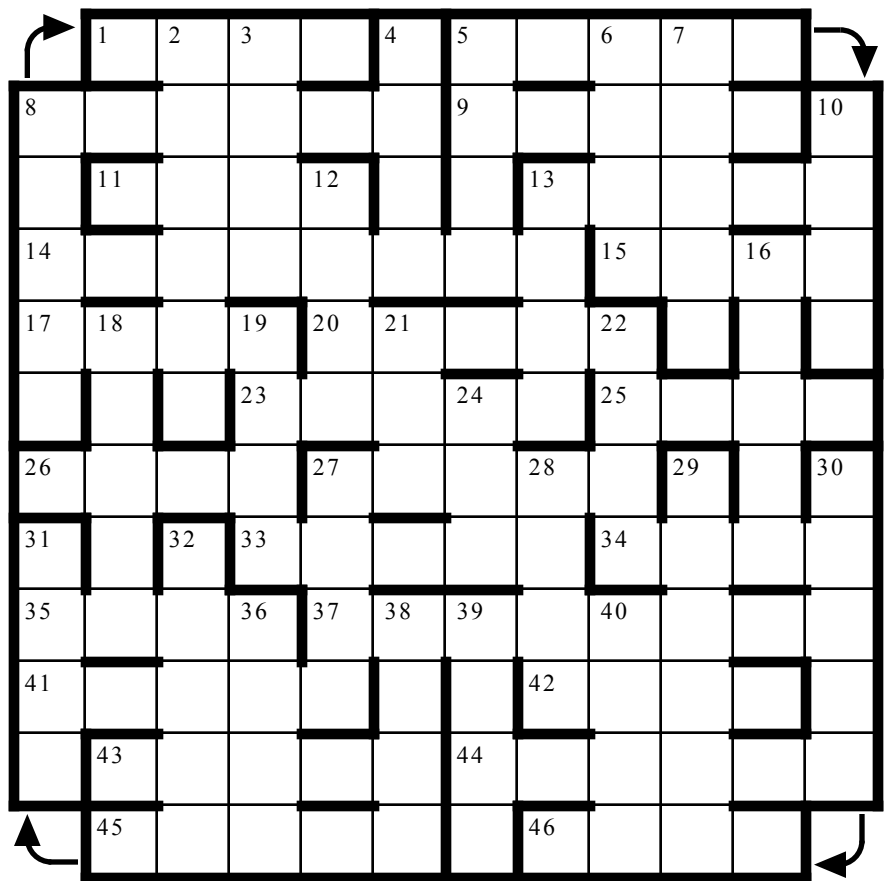
(2) The other half form a "Rube Goldberg" sequence, where the letter you "kick out" from one clue is the one you "put in" in the next (in clue order). The sequence is kicked off with /, and ends with an appropriate letter for the officer who engineered all this.

The sequences of letters from (1) and (2) will both spell out appropriate items.

Because of the nonsimultaneity of (A) and (D), you can know both position and velocity exactly. Specifically, if you take the letters pointed to by the (A1) entries, they will tell you where you start; if you step through the Down clues (starting at 2 Down) as you travel clockwise at precisely one tetrasquare per clue, and take the letters you hit for the (D2) clues, you will get an additional time-based message.

ACROSS (by Ucaoimhu)

1. Sure you shall — at first
5. I remain in place and must tag someone (2 wds.)
8. Hires about a hundred quirky people
9. Crack tore asunder very speedy vehicle (2 wds.)
11. A Coen brothers movie, mostly about tennis player Steffi
13. Ray is to go around on roller blades, perhaps
14. I'd need it illicitly added during revisions (2 wds.)
15. Heard before a song
17. Cartoon skunk Le Pew's vim and energy
20. Brought back part of a joint for a musical group
23. Boy, Mr. Norton is burdened with cargo
25. Interlude during a play by Genet barely concealing a bunch of propaganda
26. Crony almost has to consume one thing that's made
27. Primarily, light-wave emitters!
33. Reportedly send away for an item of footwear
34. Leave snare around
35. Barrier formed by water particle in your ear
37. "Djinns hidden in Kenosha," it answers
41. Unfortunately gotta care for an item of outerwear



42. Love spinning vehicle into foe in speed competition
43. Dry well in southeast
44. Reversing or interrupting the spasm
45. That is the 13th of June, say, and the 3rd of October (2 wds.)
46. Woman to be honored by king and 1/3 of athelings

DOWN (by Ensign Metag)

2. Not the same as remarkably dire ATV (6)
3. Was, as Caesar put it, "clipping vetch" (4)
4. Altos alee from abased person with teacher's degree (4, abbr.)
5. Perverse Irv grabbing lash in villa in France? True (4)
6. Letters seared in Scout, Ava, and secretive John Candy's old comedy show (4)
7. Either plank from Iraqi parrots in Swedish furniture stores (5)
8. Lett in Cadiz with agent that ultimately moved slowly (5)
10. To finally box up plant that's oat used in gumbo (4)
12. Shift ilea's front and rear (4)
13. Knife to observe around ninish in consternation (4)
16. Within reason, make kine start in treatment plant (5)
18. Be alien when describing reference line that starts lath (5)
19. Equipment with which one Aries disturbed naps (4)
21. Going around small *bête*, takes in too much (3)
22. After reelection, Penny found short-term employee (4)
24. In Spain, tee inside of livid Briton's restroom (3)
27. Piece of peculiar headgear is *fini* (4)
28. Actress Michele Faraday gives Esther half of a folio sheet (4)
29. Eire also ultimately got behind (6)
30. I'm at the door with Tim's weird pin, finally (2'1 2)
31. Annoying people spilled gas after boon (4)
32. Sounded like a beet supplier's vocal, emotional state (5)
36. Over-English father of lame and equine creature (4)
38. Alternatively, ask tern to keep this as it was (4)
39. Initially hoping that they'd point to sura on the web, you put this on your URLs (4, abbr.)
40. Charles who investigated nary a sawed-off gat (4)