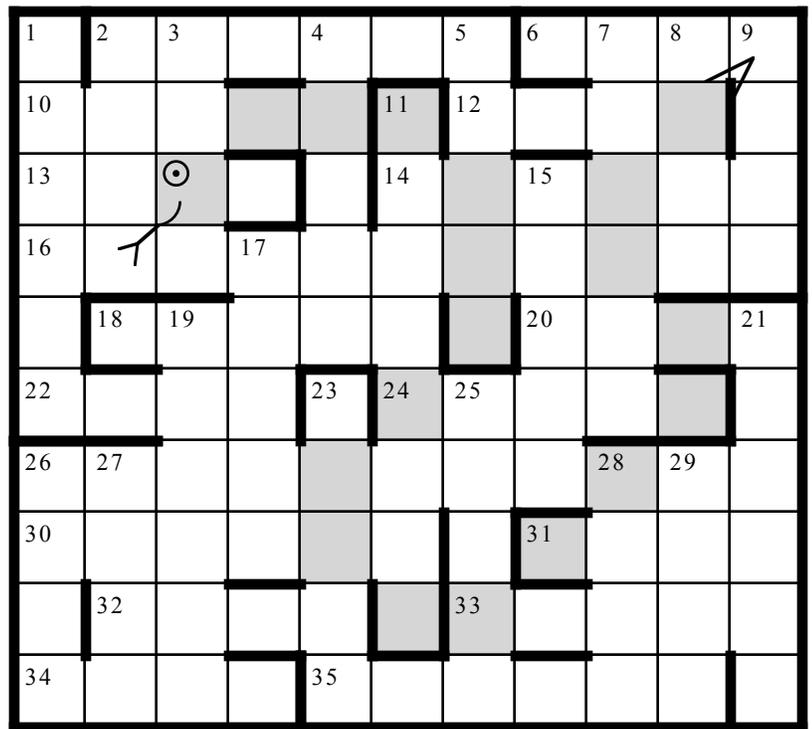


A Bit In Advance — by Ucaimhu

To commemorate this planning party taking place one year before the Boston con, each of thirteen answers in this puzzle must be altered before being entered in the grid by having one of its letters moved to an earlier position, thus forming a new word. When the grid is filled, 16 and 26 Across will contain a not-quite-familiar phrase appropriate to the year-in-advance scheduling, and location, of this meeting; the shaded squares along the snake will form another related phrase, and the initial letters of the clues for the altered entries, in clue order, will form a third phrase which, together with the snake, is also related.



ACROSS

2. Drenching people — perhaps those topless Republicans (6)
6. Oomph reportedly displayed by a tiny creature (4)
10. One assumes Reagan talked at length (3 2)
12. Nice, ultimately colorless actor portraying Obi-Wan (4)
13. The empty church in the east part of MIT? (4)
14. Eliminate polo-playing by females (3 3)
16. [See instructions.]
18. Vision is colorfully distorted by this ad-man's creed? (5)
20. Is delayed by wild gals (4)
22. Take in vessel orally (4)
24. Silver paint peeled, another time (5)
26. [See instructions.]
30. African country and Teutonic one will seize Georgia (6)
31. Ten thousand like the Yuletide season (4)
32. Run through green rocks (4)
33. Glorify former songstress endlessly (5)
34. Early Italian god left and went a-courting (4)
35. Summary of earlier work about flipping birds (6)

DOWN

1. Adjusted to Bern being ripped to shreds (6) [NI2+]
2. Headgear he initially doth own (4)
3. Formerly working with the Anglican church (4)
4. Breaks bridges up (5)
5. "D__" surrounded by, mostly, more terrible oaths (5)
7. Chinese drink to Maia, oddly (3-3)
8. Facts comprehended by reinforcements (4)
9. Fight over it very loudly (4)
11. Call Tim a lunatic about general weather conditions (8) [NI2]
15. Singer Edith has left seasoned rice (5)
17. Father encounters no temptress (5)
19. Despoil a grave barbarously (6)
21. Cares for oceans — also, sounds (4 2)
23. Over-radical one in Quebec is more naked (5)
25. Narrator's brush produces colourless colours? (5)
26. Loveless soul at college with the helmsman of the Enterprise (4)
27. Moseys along to the pass, finally (4)
28. Earful of Jerry Herman musical is to cause physical damage (4)
29. Dale Evans's second beer (4)