



Crazy Eights | a cryptic puzzle by Emily Cox & Henry Rathvon

This puzzle's eight-letter answers are clued separately and out of order. Each contains one of the letters C, D, H or S (as in clubs, diamonds, hearts and spades), to be entered as an 8 in the grid. That 8 changes to a different letter in a crossing word. In total, the eight 8s represent four each of C, D, H and S. Use the shorter answers to help locate the Eights. The unclued, shaded central Across delivers a final comment.

Across

- 1 Put down first of diamonds or a curiously fateful opener? (7)
- 4 Busy keeping right angle on a slant (5)
- 6 A log misspelled famed gymnast's first name (4)
- 8 No satisfactory spot for eating breakfast (4)
- 9 Taste article put in dish (6)
- 10 Play a horn, a bit of baritone, and bass (4)
- 11 Went on holding a mid-October trucking competition (6)
- 13 Motivational speaker stirred to roar (6)
- 15 Audibly boost level (4)
- 19 Made up pitch in commercial (6)

- 20 Ski resort vital to local taxes (4)
- 21 Bird swooped down (4)
- 22 Zigzags behind the front part of the roof (5)
- 23 Old riverboat pilot taking in the morning (7)

Down

- 1 Mary Jane is given fashionable object (5)
- 2 Dimly lit prow of dragon boat (4)
- 3 Mexican gold linked to millennial process of mountain-making (7)
- 4 A pound set before an English saint (5)
- 5 Slow time for a fast operator (5)
- 7 Place to bathe kitty (4)
- 12 Korean traveling around old Virginia city (7)
- 14 Tend to legal document (4)
- 16 Tenor, breaking into song, courts in shopping malls (5)
- 17 Has a tolerance for large predators (5)
- 18 Agree with changes, more than ready (5)
- 20 Facilitate a Verdi opera (4)

Eights

- a Irish locale processed rice milk
- b Fret how terribly failure misled (2 wds.)
- c Fetching a parcel containing ingot from the rear
- d Hype posthumous bio about Hawaii outlaw
- e Real bad one, if different (2 wds.)
- f Guest dined around 10, with two pieces of dessert after
- g In change of course, bail out football player
- h Bygone fuel sign brought aboard with acclaim (2 wds.)
- i Jurassic beast, since returning, getting into everything belonging to us
- j Passing inside, handed off broadcast again
- k "Evita" celeb inconclusively reversed course
- l Damaged pole in narrow fixture on a rowboat (2 wds.)
- m Ruins ten bananas, most soft and drippy
- n Cleric occupied by extended play, sensing end?

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