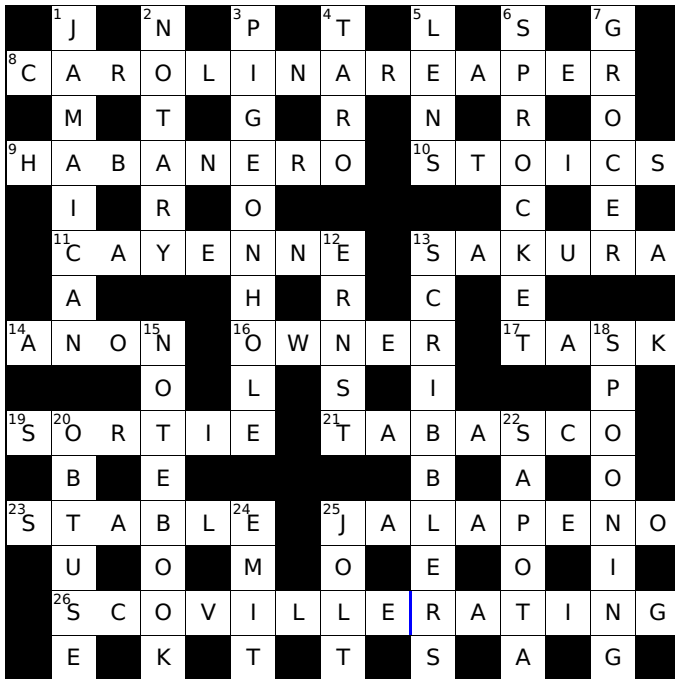


Spitting Straight Fire: Loplop Cryptic #008 [15x]

By George Ho

While constructing this puzzle, five entries proved just too hot to handle! These entries have been clued with wordplay only.



Across

- 8** Singer has in-region lead in punk (1500000, 2 wds.) **CAROLINA REAPER**. CAROL(IN + AREA + P[unk])ER
- 9** Sandwich contains a bit of banana, avocado and nutella (100000) **HABANERO**. H(A + B[anana] + A[vocado] + N[utella])ERO
- 10** Cost is adjusted for cool people (6) **STOICS**. (COST IS)*
- 11** Source of sugar coated urge (25000) **CA(YEN)NE**
- 13** Southern aura hanging around Kyoto's first cherry blossom (6) **SAKURA**. S + A(K[yo]to)URA
- 14** Article about internet rando, say? (4) **ANON**. AN + ON
- 16** Bummer: taking day off for having one? (5) **OWNER**. [d]OWNER
- 17** In an expression of disapproval, a reprimand (4) **TASK**. T(A)SK
- 19** Type that is for a quick expedition (6) **SORTIE**. SORT + IE

- 21** Cost a small company (25000) **TABASCO**. TAB + A + S + CO
- 23** Fixed top of standing desk (6) **STABLE**. S[standing] + TABLE
- 25** A plan Joe botched (2500) **JALAPENO**. (A PLAN JOE)*
- 26** Still covering a new spicy measure for five enumerations in this puzzle? (8,6) **SCOVILLE RATING**. (STILL COVERING A)*

Down

- 1** Caribbean spread I put in a container (8) **JAMAICAN**. JAM + A(I)CAN
- 2** Year very much going uphill for public figure? (6) **NOTARY**. (YR + A TON)<
- 3** Oh no, tipped over sliced jelly filled pastry! Find a box for things (10) **PIGEONHOLE**. PI(GE((OH NO)<)L)E; (OH NO)< inserted into GEL inserted into PIE
- 4** Speak interminably about boba add-on (4) **TARO**. (ORAT[e])<
- 5** It gives clear views of untopped valleys (4) **LENS**. [g]LENS
- 6** Toothy piece of Spanish arugula? (8) **SPROCKET**. SP + ROCKET
- 7** Vendor said to be filthier (6) **GROCER**. "grosser"
- 12** German painter contributing to Western style (5) **ERNST**. westERN SType
- 13** Young artists steal biomedical engineer's coats aboard steamship (10) **SCRIBBLERS**. S(CRIB + B[iomedical]E[ngineer]S)S
- 15** Not something published digitally! (8) **NOTEBOOK**. NOT + EBOOK (&lit)
- 18** Cuddling and giving bites (8) **SPOONING**. Double definition
- 20** Unintelligent kind of angle (6) **OBTUSE**. Double definition
- 22** Fruit spun around and covered in tomato paste (6) **SAPOTA**. (tomATO PAsTe)<
- 24** Say "time's up" (4) **EMIT**. (TIME)<
- 25** Tiny amount left in jar (4) **JOLT**. JO(L)T