

Elf on the Ice Shelf – Solution

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This puzzle is more-or-less an ordinary crossword. After solving enough of the down clues, we infer that the central clue “*Where to find this puzzle’s answer*” resolves to UNDER THE SEA. We interpret this cluephrase as UNDER THE C and highlight the grid letters directly below the C’s in the crossword, as shown at right.

These letters spell SUBMARINE, a vessel commonly found *under the sea*. SUBMARINE is the answer to this puzzle.

1	C	2	Y	3	C	4	A	5	D		6	C	7	L	8	A	9	M	10	P
11	S	A	U	C	E						12	B	O	G	I	E				
13	I	T	E	M	S						14	S	C	E	N	T				
				15	E	S	16	L			17	A	L	A						
18	P	19	I	20	E		21	E	A	22	S	T	E	R	23	N				
24	U	N	D	25	E	R	T	H	E	S	E	A								
26	P	S	A	L	T	E	R				27	S	T	Y						
		28	P	S	I			29	R	O	30	C								
31	L	A	N	C	32	E				33	O	R	34	C	35	A	36	S		
37	A	C	E	I	T					38	M	A	N	G	O					
39	B	E	R	T	H					40	S	Y	N	O	D					

Construction Notes: The goal of this puzzle was to produce a straightforward crossword with a flavorful extract mechanic. Veterans of MIT Mystery Hunt may note some mechanical similarity to a certain puzzle from 2017. For spoilers on which one, read the footnote.¹

¹ Long Time No See, written by Greg Pliska.