Alumni Association 2008 Retrocogitator Puzzle Challenge
Engineer's Drinking Song Stanzas—Honorable Mentions

An Arizona rancher and an engineer set out
Across the desert, waterless, they travelled through the drought
"There's water in that cactus" cried the rancher, who'd ignored
The engineer had rigged a spout through which tequila poured

An Arizona rancher and an engineer set out
Across the desert, waterless, they travelled through the drought
"Four years in Hell have taught me much," declared the engineer
"I'll tap this cactus for tequila though I wish that it was beer"

By: Conan Dailey '94, MNG '95; Mireille Dailey '93
Team: MCR We
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One summer eve an engineer was busy at his task
To crown the Pops performance with a patriotic blast
The firmament was soon lit up, that 4th night of July
With a thousand seven hundred seventy-six digits of pi

By: David Glazer '81, Alfredo Sadun '72, Erica Sadun, Lorenzo Sadun '81
Team: Vintage Deals
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The weather in Seattle, it'll make you hate the sky
It rains and pours all day and night and here's the reason why
An Engineer in Course 16 (to entertain the crowd)
Propelled a Needle into Space and pierced a thundercloud

By: Mark Gottlieb '96; Daniel Katz '03; Tanis O'Connor '02; Sean Trowbridge '89, SM '90
Team: The Satellite Seattleites
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The Infinite Connection went and launched a brand new site
A puzzle contest was adjudged the way to do it right
The Alumni and the Drinking Song had, respectively, a ball
And fifty-two new verses on consuming alcohol.

An engineer confided of his girl from Course 18,
"She's the spacy type you don't find much upon the Cambridge scene
But she's open and contractible, so I know we'll never split,
For, as long since proved by Whitehead, our connection's infinite."

By: Benjamin Monreal PhD '04; Justin Werfel SM '01, PhD '06
Team: Kermits-the-Forg
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They say that Gordon Freeman once signed himself Course 8
And it was here that Richards earned von Doom's eternal hate
Cambridge saw young Otacon's first dream of Metal Gear
Before Tony Stark was Iron Man, he was an Engineer!

**By:** Thomas Belulovich (senior), Sarah Krell (senior), Elizabeth Lovegrove (senior), Thomas Mildorf (senior)
**Team:** Fuegador

The murky waters of the Charles were every sailor's dread,
A fall out of a dinghy ended in a hospital bed,
But now they say the river's clean, of utmost quality;
We'll laugh, until the swim test moves there for eternity.

**By:** Matthew Cain '02; Christopher Luhrs '03; You Zhou '07, MNG '08
**Team:** Sans Black

An engineer met a maiden riding on her bike.
She removed her clothes and offered him anything he'd like.
After contemplation he took the bike and split,
For he calculated that her clothes just wouldn't fit!

**By:** Aaron Bader (grad student), Chieu Nguyen '08, Jayson Lynch (grad student), Andrew Westerdale (senior)
**Team:** The Midterm Juntdown

A CalTech lad once asked me how to retrocogitate
I told him, since he chose CalTech, for him it was too late
He threw his hands up in the air and said he'd have to punt
And I said, this thing is nothing—you should see the Mystery Hunt!

**By:** Andrew Greene '91, Katherine Bryant, Joseph DeVincenit, Dave Shukan
**Team:** 530nm330Hz, Saxifrage, and /dev/joe

An Engineer loves puzzles when they're hard to comprehend
Obfuscating clues sure make him giddy to no end
He hammers search strings endlessly until his mind is blown
Why he likes to do this is a puzzle on its own.

**By:** Jeffrey Roberts '02, MCP '03; Amy Tyszkiewicz '02
**Team:** The Mostly-Jeff Roberts Team
Four Course XVIII majors sat around and tried to write,  
But they weren't very creative, so it took all day and night.  
Minutes before their verse was due, they finally did see  
That the easy way out was self-referentiality

**By:** Paul Christiano (grad student), Kenan Diab (sophomore), Shaunak Kishore (grad student)  
**Team:** How Do I Shot Web

An engineer was solving puzzles late into the night,  
And started on a run-around that was an awesome sight.  
When he found the coin he knew his year he'd have to punt,  
Because he'll be writing puzzles for the next year's Mystery Hunt!

**By:** Brandy Evans Buckingham '01, '02; Elizabeth Demicco '00; Laura Martini '08; Erin Rhode '04  
**Team:** Guillotined Priapism

One of us has 4 degrees and one of us has 3,  
one of us has 2 degrees and all from MIT!  
The fourth one started MIT 12 long years ago,  
And even if he graduates we'll still just call him slow!

**By:** Keith Battocchi '02, '04, MNG '04; Sheri Cheng '99, SM '01; Nishla Keiser '99, PhD '04;  
Eben Kunz (grad student)  
**Team:** Tardcakes

setec, acme, codex, manic sages, random hall,  
solve cryptics, duck conundrums, and sudokus til they fall.  
"the sleep-dep's no big deal," they say, "this is the way we punt.  
for it only happens once a year, the glorious myst'rey hunt!"

**By:** Sanghamitra Sen '05  
**Team:** sasen_is_bored

Though cambridge is so frigid, we've got p-sets we must do  
our course bibles we've burned, to keep our hands from turning blue  
our friends at cal-tech mock, they say their weather is so warm  
but we know that global warming will make them rue their isotherm

**By:** Annelise Beck (senior); Keith Bonawitz '02, MNG '03, PhD '08; Josiah Schwab (senior);  
Anthony Valderrama (sophomore)  
**Team:** Simple Syrup

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You asked us to be creative, even though we're engineers,
So we are looking for our Muse inside a case of 40 beers,
This is probably not the smartest way to find your inner Bard,
Something something something, this is getting really hard.

**By:** Richard Diaz '06, Adam Kaczmarek '06  
**Team:** Wooden Robot

MIT alums are really spread throughout the land  
From Boston, Massachusetts out to far Uzbekistan  
But though we're spread around the globe that doesn't stop our fight  
to beat the others in this game by puzzling through the night

**By:** Tiffany Dohzen '06, MNG '07; William Stoltzman '05, MNG '06; Albert Sun '05, MNG '06; Emily Yan '05, MNG '06  
**Team:** Ciabatta

Creative minds work well when drunk and sometimes sober too,  
but offer us a great big prize and we will show you, foo'!
No sleep? No prob! Fatigue? No matter! We're from MIT  
and we know how to live, subsist, entirely on caffeine.

**By:** Edmund Kay (grad student); Jelani Nelson '05, MNG '06; Brian Wu '06, MNG '07  
**Team:** Uplate

A quartet of alumni formed a puzzle-hunting team.  
We hear the retrocogitator may have burst a seam.  
But we shall patch it up again, like any beaver's dam --  
A simple weekend's work for us, the members of te-ZAM!

**By:** Jennifer Krishnan '04, Joshua Mandel '05, Caroline Niziolek '05, Mary Ross '03  
**Team:** Tezam

A Harvard pilgrim sailed a river with a devil blue,  
A Yale bulldog accompanied and Princeton tigers too,  
But when they turned a bend they saw a dam had blocked their route,  
And atop there sat a beaver with its rear-end facing out.

**By:** Benjamin Levick '08, Matthew Ng '08  
**Team:** Rahhhh