



# NOTHING TRIVIAL HERE

Test your smarts at **Merry Time Bar and Grill's Trivia Night**

PHOTOS BY COLIN MURPHEY/COAST WEEKEND

A team puts together an answer to the latest question during trivia night at the Merry Time Bar and Grill. The venue hosts the event every Wednesday beginning at 7 p.m.

By **DAN HAAG**  
FOR COAST WEEKEND

**I** don't dabble too much in trivia, which is strange, considering my head is swimming with useless facts and pop culture references.

Trivia and I haven't had a serious relationship since the days of the multi-colored, pie-shaped pieces of the classic Trivial Pursuit board game.

That is, until I took in Trivia Night at Astoria's venerable Merry Time Bar and Grill, held 7 to 8:30 p.m. every Wednesday.

## It's all in the name

I've always enjoyed the Merry Time, with its high booths overlooking Marine Drive.

I especially appreciate their "No Minors" rule that allows me to nurse a beer and grumble about the Red Sox third-base situation without listening to wailing toddlers.

But Trivia Night gave me a new appreciation for the establishment and the important role trivial facts play in our lives.

My wife and I had no clue what to expect as we entered the Merry Time on a warm Astoria Wednesday evening.

The place was packed and the anticipation was palpable.

Seating ourselves at a small round corner table adjacent to the center of trivia action, we were versed by waitstaff on the logistics of the nights' competition.

The game features three rounds with

three categories in each round. Each team — which can have up to four players — puts in the \$2 entry fee. At the end of the game, the winning team gets the pot.

We were issued pencils and answer sheets for each round. "Make sure you pick a team name, something fun," our waiter said.

After some intense negotiation, we settled on a name that not only perfectly encapsulated us but seethed intimidation: "Disciples Of Vader."

Extra points are awarded for the best team name, and we liked our odds until some of the others were announced: "Steve Bannon's Hit Squad" and "We Can Do This The Easy Way Or The United Airlines Way" vaulted to the forefront.

## Ridiculous facts

It turns out I'm not the only one who takes pride in being able to access answers to little-known facts.

Trivia Night has a loyal following, and host Carol Goodrich always takes category requests in order to involve tavern regulars.

"I love trivia in general and little facts that seem ridiculous have always been fun for me," she said, adding that the shared experience of trivia is fun for everybody.

Goodrich, along with Emily Geddiss, took over Trivia Night last fall with the blessing of Merry Time owner Terry Robinnett.

"Terry really let us run with it and make it our own," Goodrich said.