

Geddiss, who no longer works Trivia Night, said it's enjoyable when someone realizes they know an answer.

"It's fun to find those things that people have squirreled away in the back of their brains," she said.

The questions don't just get read off verbatim; Goodrich likes to add visual questions as well.

"I think sets that us apart from the rest of trivia nights. Lots of silly pictures and throwbacks to our childhood selves," she said.

The prizes add another element to the silliness.

Goodrich asks bonus questions between each round and those winners get to select something from a collection of what she calls "exotic prizes" lining a table at the front of the room.

"Even if you don't win you might take home something fun," Goodrich said. "Sometimes it's a house plant, sometimes it's a toy or candy. Terry has even wrapped up stuff so they have to roll the dice picking from a pile of unknown things."

On this night, the table was lined with an array of cassette tapes, old pictures, toys and a puzzle.

I was eying a cassette tape knowing I am probably one of the last people in the world with a working tape player in his car.

Trivia fever

The time to play had arrived.

Most teams were at full capacity, leaving the two of us outnumbered but undaunted.

Seated at the table next to us was a four-some of college-age kids who were only too happy to show the waiter their IDs.

I leaned over and asked them what brought them here; the consensus was the cash prize. Also, as one of them confided, "We're really into stupid facts."

I asked them if they planned on buying the house a round if they won, but they just laughed.

The game commenced — "No using phones," Goodrich admonished — and the festivities kicked off with a relatively easy round of sports questions featuring team nicknames.

I got lucky and drew a couple of baseball questions, including "What team from the 1970s was commonly referred to as The Big Red Machine?"

The Cincinnati Reds, of course.

This was followed by "What team was known as the Purple People Eaters?"

Born and raised in the Midwest, I instantly recognized the Minnesota Vikings. Long live Fran Tarkenton!

We ended that category with a perfect score. Trivia fever was settling in. I had no doubt the Disciples Of Vader would reign supreme.



The Merry Time Bar and Grill in Astoria is the site of a trivia night event held every Wednesday where teams compete for a variety of prizes.



A team ponders a trivia question at the Merry Time Bar and Grill in Astoria during a recent trivia night event held every Wednesday starting at 7 p.m.

Then it got tricky.

We missed on the scientific term for the narwhal (mondon monoceros), forgot the name of the singer who performed "Take

This Job and Shove It" (Johnny Paycheck), flubbed on the first National Park (Yellowstone, not Yosemite), and drew a complete blank on the director of the 1982 film "The



A participant writes down an answer to the latest question during trivia night at the Merry Time Bar and Grill in Astoria.

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Secret of Nimh" (Don Bluth).

We redeemed ourselves by correctly labeling the continents in size from largest to smallest and naming all of the secondary colors, but by then we were deep into the third round and fighting to stay in serious contention.

There can be only one

The final question in the last round offered a glimmer of redemption, and my confidence surged as Goodrich asked, "Who served as President of Iran until 2013?"

Eureka! I knew this one!

As I prepared to scribble the long, multi-syllable name, cold water rained down on my picnic.

"Only full name and spelling count," she said adamantly.

Groans went up around the room and we bent over our scoresheet, arguing over how many 'j's' there were and where they went, and repeatedly sounding the long name out.

In the end, only one team correctly spelled "Mahmoud Ahmadinejad."

Still, it was a bitter pill to swallow as the last prize from the table was claimed, that worn cassette tape I had coveted.

As the evenings' final tally was announced, Disciples Of Vader, out of 11 teams, ranked in the middle of the pack.

The cash prize, a little over \$30, was claimed, and the winners — a group decked out in Oregon Ducks apparel — celebrated loudly.

Disciples Of Vader would not be trivia champions this evening, but we vowed to return for a rematch. We also took solace from still being in better shape than the Red Sox third-base situation. 