



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Jacob Zumwalt and Thomas VanNice tabulate team scores between rounds during the 2 Dads Trivia night at Neighbor Dudes tap house in Hermiston.

POP QUIZ

Trivia nights by pair of dads delights and challenges

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East Oregonian

Knowing what a group of hedgehogs is called might never help you a day in your life, but at Neighbor Dudes’ trivia night, it just might put you on the winning team.

Random pieces of knowledge (the answer is “an array,” by the way) are the most valuable currency for those playing at the monthly trivia nights, put on by local duo Thomas VanNice and Jacob Zumwalt, playing as 2 Dads Trivia.

The two men write questions and organize trivia events for Hermiston’s Neighbor Dudes Taphouse, 405 N 1st St., Hermiston, and Boardman’s Ordinance Brewing, 405 N. Olson Rd., Boardman. Trivia competitions are held one Tuesday of each month (dates vary for each location), from 6 to 8 p.m.

The two are not brewery employees, but enjoy spending time there, and would meet up to play card games.

“We wanted to do trivia, but there was no trivia in Hermiston,” VanNice said.

So they decided to start their own. Naming their company after their main roles in life — fathers to young children — the two approached the management at Neighbor Dudes about 10 months ago, and were given permission to host a once-a-month event.

The events have grown, with more than 50 people attending the most recent one at Neighbor Dudes.

The two tinkered with the format of the trivia nights, finally settling on a formula for the two-hour event: four regular

rounds, a lightning round, and a picture round. Zumwalt scores each round as soon as it ends, and scores for each team are announced between rounds. The picture round keeps teams busy while scoring is going on, and usually features a theme, such as corporate logos, a logic puzzle or identifying the movie based on a still.

“Honestly, the hardest thing is coming up with a category,” VanNice said. “I basically Google my category and trivia, and pick questions I like.”

Each one will come up with questions for two regular-play categories. VanNice compiles the picture round, and Zumwalt creates the lightning round.

“We do fact-check them,” Zumwalt said.

They get creative with their subjects, and sometimes the answers for a category will have a theme.

“We did one where every answer was a number,” Zumwalt. “Or if we have a holiday or a special event.” They have had categories specific to Hermiston trivia, or questions about the state of Oregon. On Valentine’s Day, they had a category where they played short clips of several love songs, and players

had to name the song and musician for each.

Though the two receive some compensation for their work putting together the events, they started out as volunteers, and both hold other jobs. VanNice is a fisheries biologist and track coach, and Zumwalt is a substitute teacher and stay-at-home dad.

A tough first round at April’s trivia night leveled the playing field. The category was “Norse Mythology.”

“Why was Odin’s pet horse special?” VanNice asked. The answer is that the horse had eight legs.

Another question that stumped many: “The most handsome Norse god, Baldr, was invincible to everything except for what?”

Answer: Mistletoe.

Marcie Christopher and her cousin first heard about the event through Facebook, and started attending trivia nights at Ordinance Brewing in Boardman.

Their team was lagging at the end of the first round, but was optimistic.

“We’re on the edge of doing well,” Christopher said with a laugh. “We like to think we’re good at trivia, until we come

here.”

Craig Coleman, owner of Ordinance and Neighbor Dudes and a self-proclaimed trivia expert, said VanNice and Zumwalt were the first people to approach the brewery about such an event.

“People like a reason to get out and socialize,” he said.

Things got a little more competitive in round two and three, with categories “Civil War” and “Fandom.”

Teams were asked to come up with the real name of Harry Potter villain Lord Voldemort — Tom Marvolo Riddle — and to name the first state to secede from the Union, South Carolina.

Before the final regular play round, which featured general knowledge trivia, team members faced the lightning round. The theme? Sonic the Hedgehog.

Once all the rounds were scored — including the Where’s Waldo picture round — the top prize went to a non-Hermiston team: Chris Luttrell and Emily Marcum of Stanfield, and Dana Higgins and Liz Simmons of Richland.

The team had come to trivia nights before, but was pleasantly surprised by the win.

“Everyone added something,” Marcum said.

“We’ll definitely be back to defend our championship,” Luttrell added.

Winning nets the team a small trophy, such as a specialty glass, as well as a token for a free pint of beer.

But the biggest prize of all, according to Zumwalt?

“Bragging rights.”

Test yourself

1. What is a group of hedgehogs called?
 2. In Norse mythology, what was special about Odin’s pet horse?
 3. The most handsome Norse god, Baldr, was invincible to everything except for what?
 4. What is the real name of Harry Potter villain Lord Voldemort?
 5. Which was the first state to secede from the Union?
- Answers found in the story.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Jacob Zumwalt talks to Thomas Ray while collecting answer cards during the 2 Dads Trivia night at Neighbor Dudes in Hermiston.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris
Amber White, from left, Ivory Wilson, Erin Wilson and Jeff Dahl work on a Where’s Waldo puzzle as part of trivia night at Neighbor Dudes tap house.