

TASTE *of the* BAY™

A CULTURAL GUIDE TO THE AREA'S BEST

Ferguson

Making Luxury
Less Laborious

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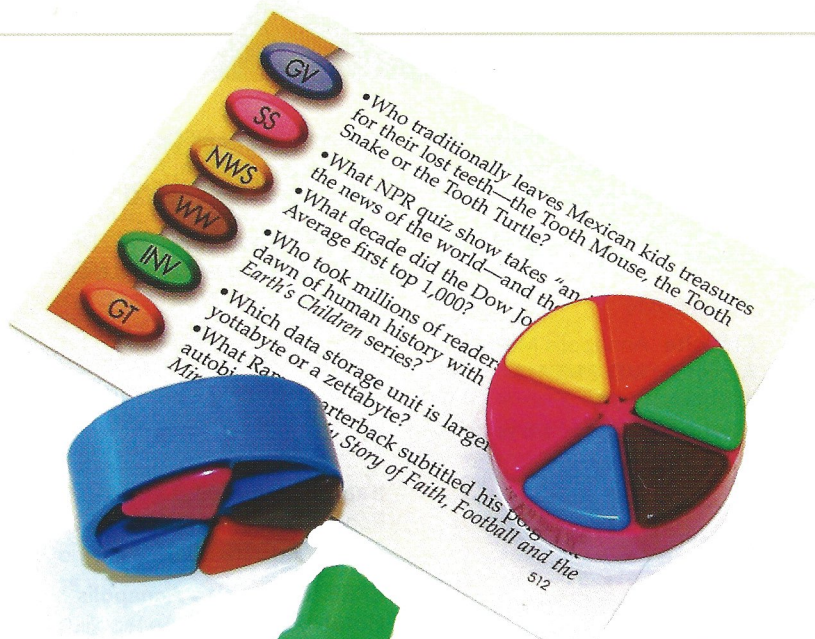
Is the Bay in Hot Water?

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Match Wits Over
Dinner & Drinks



Trivial Pursuits

Those In the Know **Enjoy Matching Wits** at Local Pubs & Restaurants

By Marie Robinson

- Q1:** How many plastic pink flamingos were sold in the U.S. in the year 2000?
- Q2:** Who or what is ‘ataxia’?
- Q3:** Which of the following is not a former name for The Beatles: The Quarrymen, Johnny and the Moondogs, The Silver Beatles, or Rory Storm and the Hurricanes?
- Q4:** How can I put useless facts in my head to good use and have fun at the same time?

See page 23 for answers.

Hands on buzzers. Thinking caps on. Time to get in the game!

Several establishments in the greater Annapolis area have found rewards in mixing good food and drink with a good time. Wander into Galway Bay, Heroes Pub, Fins Hawaiian Fusion or a number of other local watering holes, and be prepared to have a very good time. When low pressure competition and good fun are the name of the game, everyone wins.

Any Tuesday night, venture into Irish restaurant Galway Bay for a raucous, high-energy evening of trivia. You can play at the bar or a table, or just enjoy a good meal while watching the contestants but beware—you might just get pulled in by the fun of it all.

Between 25 and 35 teams of two to seven participants gather to answer two rounds of questions compiled by restaurant co-owner Fintan Galway. The rules are simple. Rule No. 1: Fintan is always right. Rule No. 2: No, absolutely no, cheating is tolerated. Put your Blackberry away and jump in to an hour of zany, silly questions covering every subject under the sun while you enjoy that Guinness.

While most trivia nights share the same basic setup (patrons group into teams, each team tries to answer as many questions as possible correctly, winning team walks away with bragging rights), Galway Bay’s version has a special mission to help the less fortunate.

“We tried to put a different twist on it,” Galway explained. “We felt that trivia night was good, but why not give it a goal? We would try and raise money for charity. It was a good marriage of having a trivia night on a night

“It’s something different [to do]. All the other places have the same stuff—watch sporting events, eat the same food. But this gives you a different element to going out. It’s something new and fun to do.”

– Heroes Pub Owner Kurt Beall



Heroes Pub Trivia night. Courtesy of Kurt Beall



Fin’s Hawaiian Fusion and Sushi Bar Trivia night. Courtesy of Eric Anderson

where it [business] was busy...It worked better than we ever thought.”

Galway Bay has been playing trivia for charity for about four years, and some of the charities selected have been the Maritime Museum, the local SPCA, and Hospice of the Chesapeake.

There is also a house charity, run by Fintan Galway’s uncle, who is an 80-year-old Catholic priest doing missionary work in Malawi. Over the years, Galway Bay has been able to donate roughly \$15,000 for his missionary work.

Galway’s game entails 30 trivia questions covering random topics that are handed out on paper over two rounds. Each team puts ten dollars into the pot. At the end of the quiz whoever has the most correct questions chooses the charity to which all of the money in the pot will be donated. “It has been a tremendous success for us in every way,” Galway said.

At Heroes Pub, the basic premise of trivia night is the same, though it is a more bar-style environment and the game typically runs a bit later in the evening. Pub owner Kurt Beall hires a DJ who reads questions in short batches focusing on a particular topic (e.g. football). Each team works together to answer the questions, turns them in, and the DJ grades them. Different rounds are worth different amounts of points, so players need not be present at the start of the game to join in for a later round. And oh yes, prizes are awarded for the winners of each round.

Prizes may be anything from a gift certificate to the restaurant to a t-shirt. When asked why he thinks trivia night is such a big draw, Beall said, “It’s something different [to do]. All the other places have the same stuff—watch sporting events, eat the same food. But this gives you a different element to going out. It’s something new and fun to do.”

Fin’s Hawaiian Fusion owner Eric Anderson decided to have trivia night because he wanted to have some fun. He keeps the questions easy at first, gradually making them more difficult as the night goes on to keep the interest of all levels of trivia aficionados. Trivia night at Fin’s involves six rounds of three questions each, plus one bonus question after each round that relates to one of the questions in that particular cycle. Questions range from true or false to anagrams, and in true trivia fashion they cover every topic from politics to music.

continued on page 24

Answers to questions from page 22:
 A1: 40 million
 A2: Loss of muscle control
 A3: Roy Storm and the Hurricanes. (That was the name of Ringo Starr’s band before he joined The Beatles.)
 A4: Find some friends and compete for prizes at one of numerous local spots offering trivia nights!

Trivial Pursuits continued from page 23



Trivia Maryland Team Suburbia Courtesy of Trivia Maryland

Prizes are awarded to the top teams: First prize is half off the price of your check, second prize is a buy one get one free entrée deal, and third prize is a free appetizer. “We’re up to 10 or 12 teams,” Anderson said, “ranging from 2-10 people. Sometimes the bar is completely full and people spill out into the

dining room – you can play in either place.”

Questions are asked orally, and each team keeps track of their answers and score on paper. There is a limited amount of time in which to answer, in the interest of keeping the game lively. “We just really try to make it fun,” said Anderson. “Certainly you have to have rules and a framework, but it’s here for us to have a good time, but not in a silly way. It’s a good time in a cerebral way.”

Trivia Maryland founder Russ Dawson supplies trivia questions and organizes trivia nights for a network of seven local restaurants throughout Maryland, in places such as Bill Bateman’s in Severna Park, Glen Burnie and Towson, Columbia Ale House in Columbia, and Serafino’s in Ellicott City. His web site, www.triviamaryland.com, has a complete listing of locations, dates, and times. All of his trivia questions are prepared as PowerPoint presentations, so he can include photographs in his questions (e.g. “Can you recognize this person?”).

“It’s a lot of fun,” Dawson explains. “It’s a team competition, with each location competing against other locations for a ten-week session. At the end, the top three teams play each other. We give away prizes for teams who finish in the top three spots.”

Dawson believes that trivia nights are so successful because anyone from their 20s up to their 70s can play. A lot of the questions have to do with odd facts, so even if you’re not a very good trivia player there will be something in there for everyone.

Next time you and your friends are complaining about not having anything fun to do, ask yourself, “Isn’t time we joined in the fun?” No matter where you go, you’re sure to get that question right. ~

Some Local Restaurants/Pubs that Offer Trivia Night

Fin’s Hawaiian Fusion and Sushi Bar

1629 Crofton Center, Crofton
410.721.4200, www.finsonline.net
Trivia night: Thursday, 8-10pm

Galway Bay Irish Restaurant

63 Maryland Avenue, Annapolis
410.263.8333, www.galway2006.com
Trivia night: Tuesday, 8-9pm

Heroes Pub

1 Riverview Avenue, Annapolis
410.573.1996, www.heroespub.com
Trivia night: Thursday, 8:30-11pm

Trivia Maryland Locations

www.triviamaryland.com

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