

Where trivia is not trivial

Beer, burritos ... and bated breath

By Max Beaulieu

Special to Connect SCV

The room goes as still as it can. The restaurant runs on, the din of a Wednesday night dinner rush filling the space left by a waiting audience. Mark Fortier puts the microphone up to his lips and the teams wait with bated breath.

"What car company's slogan is 'like a rock'?" he asks.

Hurried discussions flit back and forth, the teams seem tense, but they know they know this. They scribble the answers onto pages, each one debating who was right, who was wrong.

"Quiet down everyone. Next question."

The game continues.

As the rounds end, the teams sit in quiet anticipation. They want to know

how they are doing and, more importantly, how their opponents are doing. Mark announces the scores. Cheers and groans fill the air.

The drama plays out over seven rounds until 10 p.m., when the winners are announced. The prize for their mastery of obscure knowledge? Chuy's gift cards.

This is Trivia Night at Chuy's Mesquite Broiler, a restaurant and bar nestled at the base of a Stevenson Ranch neighborhood.

Every Wednesday, from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., patrons of the popular Mexican-style restaurant compete for fame, glory and gift certificates in a battle of the factoids.

This throw-down is put on by King Trivia, and hosted by a quiz-master, local emcee Mark Fortier, who moderates the events, and offers the final judgment on correct answers.



Teams concentrate on a question during Trivia Night at Chuy's.

"What car company's slogan is 'like a rock'?"



King Trivia hosts events across California, as well as Texas and Colorado.

The participants are arranged in teams and the game is free to play. Chuy's provides gift cards as rewards to winning teams, and the best teams can be invited to a biannual event hosted by King Trivia, where they compete to win cash prizes and coveted bragging rights.

The atmosphere is friendly, yet competitive. So treat yourself or your family to a night out. Spice up the middle of your week with some friendly competition, and delicious beach-town food with a Mexican twist.

If you are interested in hosting your own trivia night visit www.kingtrivia.com.

If you go:

What:

Trivia Night at Chuy's

When:

Every Wednesday,
8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Where:

Chuy's Mesquite Broiler,
25289 The Old Road,
Stevenson Ranch, CA

91382

Info:

661-288-1022

'Put a bird on it' Monday

This week's weird holidays

April 3 Don't Go to Work Unless it's Fun Day: Huh? It's always "fun" when you don't go to work.

April 4 School Librarian Day: No such thing anymore. You might as well celebrate ascots.

April 5 Go for Broke Day: Why try to go where you already are?

April 6 Plan Your Epitaph Day: Do not leave "singing your praises" to those who don't know the tune.

April 7 Caramel Popcorn Day: Wear it in your pants.

April 8 Draw a Picture of a Bird Day: Or, if you watch "Portlandia," put a bird on it.

April 9 Name Yourself Day: Since this is also Winston Churchill Day, why not name yourself that? Me? I'm going for "His Highness, The Wise, Benevolent, Magnificent and Generally Attractive."



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