

# KVSC trivia fans ready to geek out with fantasy theme



Kate Kompas, [kkompas@stcloudtimes.com](mailto:kkompas@stcloudtimes.com) 6:17 a.m. CST February 13, 2015



(Photo: Kimm Anderson, [kanderson@stcloudtimes.com](mailto:kanderson@stcloudtimes.com))

There are teams that don't take playing in KVSC 88.1 FM's trivia weekend very seriously.

Then there are teams such as Meyer Meyer Pants on Fire. The team has rechristened itself this year as Meyer Meyer Clan on Fire, to go with the event's "Game of Thrones"/fantasy theme.

Meyer Meyer Clan on Fire is a family-based team that's been in the annual competition for nine years. It has a team website that is password protected to prevent snooping. Team co-captain Tim Fox-Meyer is excited about trivia weekend but doesn't like to share too many team secrets.

Meyer Meyer Pants on Fire finished fourth last year out of 56 teams.

"We are biting at the bit for third place," Fox-Meyer said. It will be tough, he says, because there are so many good teams.

More than 50 teams have registered for this weekend's "Game of Trivia 2015: Quest for Futile Facts." The competition starts at 5 p.m. Friday and continues until 7 p.m. Sunday.

Thanks to the Internet, many team members are spread across the country, or even the world. They work together through the 50-hour marathon to answer questions and rack up points.

## This 1's for geek culture

The questions all stem from the theme, and this year's fantasy in pop culture theme should be appealing, said Jo McMullen-Boyer, KVSC's station manager.

"I say this with love — I think it's in the geek's wheelhouse," she said.

Fox-Meyer pointed out that last year's theme was sports related, which he enjoyed, but most people who are willing to spend 50 hours in a trivia hunt are probably "more nerdy than sporty."

"I think most of my team would fall into that category," he said.

The KVSC staffers have been working on trivia weekend intensely for the past six weeks, McMullen-Boyer said. She promises a few changes for participants this year, but she said she wanted to keep them a surprise.

Trivia weekend, now in its 36th year, is KVSC's biggest community event.

"It connects so many different types of people," McMullen-Boyer said, from the team members to the volunteers who descend on campus to answer the phones. Some of them come from out of town.

One trend McMullen-Boyer has seen is many teams have merged.

"They're probably trying to rally their numbers," she said. A team needs a decent number of people to get through the long nights without burning people out.

As of earlier this week, 56 teams had signed up, equal to 2014's number. McMullen-Boyer expected more to sign up by Friday's deadline.

## From volunteer to competitor

St. Cloud resident Michelle Monn has been participating in trivia weekend for 14 years; this is No. 15. She's the captain of What Would Scooby Doo?, which has about 30 members. Many were previously part of the team Those Meddling Kids.

Monn was introduced to trivia by being on the other end of the phone: She was once a volunteer.

How does one train for trivia weekend? Keep a notebook in hand when you're watching TV, Monn said.

There is a core group of five people who write the trivia questions. The Internet has changed how the game is played.

"It's amazing that we can still find stuff that people can't," said Chad Schmitz, one of the writers.

But the Internet hasn't complicated the writers' jobs; it's made it easier to research, Schmitz said.

"It also helps us gauge a little bit how tough the questions could be," he said.

### **'Don't burn the house down'**

Sometimes an unfortunate accident can put trivia weekend into perspective. Members of Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys had to deal with a large fire from a fireplace in 2011. (It was 40 below and the fire grew too quickly.) Team members had to finish up the contest at a relative's house.

Last year the team's goals were "have fun, stay safe, don't burn the house down," team co-founder Josh Muonio said. "Of course we want to do well, but other things are more important."

*Follow Kate Kompas on Twitter @copygirlkate, or call 259-3620.*

### **Want to sign up?**

You have until 4:30 p.m. Friday. The contest starts at 5 p.m. that day.

### **How it works**

Each hour, nine questions are broadcast on KVSC 88.1 FM. There are speed rounds, audio trivia and visual trivia. (Teams receive a visual trivia packet.) Points are awarded to teams based on several factors; the team with the most points at the end of the weekend wins.

Source: KVSC 88.1 FM

### **Just want a trivia team name?**

Find your trivia team name (<http://sctimesapps.com/news/embeds/20150212got/>), courtesy of Times staffers Kari Petrie and Andrew Fraser. All the fun, none of the glory.

### **Watch the action**

Follow along on Twitter @kvsc881fm (#triviaweekend), or watch UTVS live stream (<http://on.sctimes.com/1yrDAW3>) after 4 p.m. Friday.

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