

12th Annual Pinball Wizard Tournament by Chris Winslow



Gateway GTO's Chief Entertainment Officer, Marty, put together another great Pinball Wizard Tournament. This year was our 12th annual tournament and our third year at Atomic Pinball in Wood River Il. Many members will remember that earlier tournaments were held at CP pinball before they relocated to the new location and changed the name.

As is typical, there was a large turnout for the event. This year there were close to 40 people in attendance.

Marty had everything organized and ready to go when we got there. As we have done the past few years, the tournament was run using software that matched up players and then picked a pinball machine for them to play. This system works really well and keeps the players competing almost non stop during the actual tournament. Marty had done all the work up front to make sure the list of players was accurate and as a result the actual tournament play was very smooth.

When the dust settled at the end of the tournament Mathew Busch was ranked #1, Rick Hipes was ranked #2, Bret Bowers ranked #3, and Gail Schott came in ranked #4.

With the final 4 determined, Matthew, Rick, Bret, and Gail played for the championship. This year they used the Ali pinball machine to decide the winner. This is an older machine and I had found it to be kind of a tricky one to play. It is also not at all forgiving! (No saved balls on this one). When the dust settled it was actually quite close, but the winner was Rick followed by

12th Annual Pinball Wizard Tournament

Bret in second place, Gail in third, and Matt in 4th. Marty handed out trophies to the winners and also had drawings for some shirts as door prizes.

Following the event a number of us headed to Alton to the Bluff City Grill for dinner. This was the second year we have headed there after the event and they did not disappoint. They had the table all ready for us and the service was fast and friendly.



Congratulations to Marty for another great event pulled off perfectly!

12th Annual Pinball Wizard Tournament





12th Annual Pinball Wizard Tournament

