



Pinball Wizard Tournament



7th Annual Pinball Wizard Tournament

By Chris Winslow



Marty Howard once again pulled together our annual Pinball Wizard Tournament at our usual location, CP Pinball in South Roxana, IL. We had a great turnout for the event as it is always a lot of fun.

Similar to last year, the tournament was set up using software that kept all of the players rotating between opponents and machines for the entire duration of the tournament itself. This time around the tournament was played on a specific set of machines. This allowed for quick changes between games so that more time could be spent playing and less time waiting for your next opponent or waiting for a machine to open up.

With the tournament itself being run by the owner of CP Pinball, Marty, for the first time I can ever remember, actually participated in the tournament. I actually had the pleasure playing a round with Marty. He put on a clinic when I was playing him racking up a huge score. I was sure he was going to be one of the top three when the dust settled.

As it turns out, there are actually a lot of Gateway GTO members who are really good at pinball. Kathy Kiburz, for example, could really run up the score on the Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory machine. She even wound up with the machine taking her photo as the top scorer.

Once the time was up for the main part of the tournament, the wins and losses were totaled up and the top three winners were Kathy Kiburz, Will Bowers, and Tom Fox.

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Kathy, Will, and Tom then had a playoff to settle first, second and third place. These were some high scoring games, but when it was all over, Tom had the high score with Kathy coming in second and Will third.

Marty had prepared medals and gift bags for the winners. The gift bags had candy and gift cards and other goodies. Marty had also prepared party favors for all of the participants. He had taken actual pinballs with Gateway GTO printed on them attached to a golf tee. Each of us that played in the tournament got to take one of those home. He must have spent a lot of time figuring out how to make those!

After the event, a number of us then headed over to Castelli's Italian Restaurant for dinner.

Marty pulled off a really fun event and I know a lot of us are already looking forward to next year.

