

# Annual Gateway GTO Picnic

By Chris Winslow



The annual Gateway GTO picnic was held on October 1st at our usual location at Vago Park in Maryland Heights. After dealing with rain at the GTOAA Regional we were due for a great day for a Gateway event and we got one.

Our official club chefs, Tony Bezzole and Rich Vie showed up early to get the meat on the grill. This year they were joined by Andrew O'Sullivan with support from Terry and Gail Schott. On the menu were hamburgers, brats, hot dogs, chicken and, of course, pork steaks. I learned a lot watching these masters at work.

This event marked the official debut of the new Gateway GTO banners. These were the brain child of Brian O'Sullivan after he saw that the Cadillac Club had a similar banner at a recent car show. Due to some problems with the supplier, we actually ended up with two of the banners and so both were on display and looked great!

It would not be a Gateway GTO picnic without a washer tournament. For this year our tournament was in jeopardy because Barb Lewis's former employer repossessed the washer boxes that we had been using for the tournament. We initially thought about changing it to a cornhole tournament, but I really did not like that idea. So, I headed over to Home Depot to pick up some plywood, pipes and 1x4s and made new boxes. These boxes belong to Gateway, so we will have them as long as we want them. At the request of Frank Chapman, I used some pretty plush shag carpet (with padding) to try to make the washer stick better if they landed in the box. As it turned out, that did not really help much. Also, I had spent what turned out to be

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way too much time painting all of the boxes different colors. They looked great before we started, but at the end of the tournament, they were totally beat up!

After a lot of competition, the winners emerged. The winners of the winners were Sue Vie and new member Greg Wolters. (Greg had just joined the week before and this was his first official Gateway GTO activity). The runners up (aka the winners of the losers) were Jim Schneider and Rich Vie.

Because it was such a nice day we had a great turnout with almost 40 people in attendance. We all owe our chefs Tony, Rich and Andrew our thanks. In addition to cooking, Tony makes this event possible every year by being first in line after the new year to reserve our spot with the City of Maryland Heights so thanks again to Tony for always making it happen!

