

Gateway GTO March Activities

By Chris Winslow



Gateway GTO's Chief Entertainment Officer, Marty, has outdone himself this month organizing not one but two great events for the club.

First up was our annual Gateway GTO Pinball Wizard Tournament. This was our 11th year in a row for the event. For this year, however, it was in a new venue, Atomic Pinball in Wood River IL.

Atomic Pinball is the new location for what used to be called CP Pinball. The facility is significantly larger and all within one building. The larger space allowed for the tournament to be more spread out and there were lots of new machines to play.

As is typical, there was a large turnout for the event. This year there were over 30 people that took part.

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.

When the dust settled at the end of the tournament Paula was ranked #1 and Matthew Busch was ranked #2. Then there was a 5 way tie for third place between Dave Busch, Shelly Schneider, Tom Fox, Stephanie Gelhot, and Frank Chapman. To address that, we had a one game playoff between those 5 with Shelly and Tom winning to round out the Final 4.



Gateway GTO March Activities



With the final 4 determined, Paula, Matthew, Shelly and Tom played for the championship. When the dust settled, Matthew won, Shelly was second, Paula was third and Tom took 4th place.

The second big event that Marty put together for Gateway for March was an Escape Room Event. We were once again at Mastermind Escape Rooms.



Gateway GTO March Activities





Gateway GTO March Activities

Gateway has a 2 for 3 record at these events. The first one we did we broke into two groups and both groups got out before time expired. Then, last year we had one group and we did not make it out in time.

The challenge for this year was the Diamond Heist where the adventure was to pose as diamond thieves and get the diamond out of the safe and escape the room in one hour or less. This year we had myself and Paula, Marty, Brian, Amy, Andrew, and Cindy O'Sullivan, and Randy and Diane Jones.

I will not go into the details on what kind of puzzles we had to solve to complete the task, but I will say it was a collaborative effort with everyone helping to solve one challenge or another. In the end, we got the diamond and escaped the room with 7 minutes to spare. Afterwards, they told us that this room as a 30% escape rate, so that was a good showing by Gateway. Our record now stands at 3 and 1!

