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INDUSTRY NEWS

**Model Contest Winners - 2008 South East Large Scale Train Show**

By Rick Henderson

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The team at Large Scale On Line wishes to recognize and thank [Aristo Craft Trains](#) along with [St. Aubin Trains](#) for providing the great prizes.



"I won what?" That was the reaction of the Best of Show [top overall] winner Bruce Bradley who did not realize he had won more than two pretty ribbons, one being rather large. He took home gift certificates from Aristo Craft Trains and St. Aubin Trains totaling \$1000. The overall winning entry also stands out because the model is not of an American prototype, even though it was lettered for an American railroad line. The model is of a Garratt Locomotive, which is very common just about anywhere in the world outside of North America. Actually Garratt steam locomotives were in daily service in South Africa until 1998 and just over 250 survive in 24 countries; one even came to TX in 1885 for restoration. The surprise does not end there as the winning modeler has only been in the G-gauge hobby for about a year.

More on Garratt locomotives: [CLICK HERE](#)

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"Can I run my train now?" Again we had a winner, Bob Pope, who was unaware of what all he had won with 1st Place Overall and what was awarded beyond the ribbons. This model was entered at 10:20, just ten minutes before closing time for entering models. One reason it was even entered was because the live steam track had a waiting list to run so he was not in as much of a rush as he first thought. It turned out to be one time it was well worth the short wait with winning \$500 in prizes.



This is a scratch built model of a diesel-electric locomotive. The actual power train consists of a glow plug 2 stroke gas engine used in cars and airplanes, which runs a generator, which powers the Aristocraft motor block wheelsets. The exhaust from the water cooled muffler makes it look like a steamer.

In addition to the scratch built loco, Bob entered the matching set of four streamliner passenger cars, which took the first place under scratch-built/rolling stock.





“Why did you turn it off? Well because it was watering the floor and table and we had to avoid a hazard. However the judges did get to see it in full operating mode and awarded it 2nd Place Overall, which came with a \$200 prize. This model of a water wheel powered grist mill had an actual working water wheel powered by a stream, which was turning a grinding stone inside. There was extensive detailing of the interior, which was telling the story of milling in the past. Accompanying the model were photos showing how the model fits into Richard Garlinghouse’s railroad back home.

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'Here Comes My Ride'

was the name of the 3rd Place Overall model by Russell Bundy, the final of the top four prize winners. Which came with a \$100 prize. This creative diorama has a box car stopped next to a Hobo camp with a couple of riders already settled down inside the box car waiting to roll along to the next camp. The extensive attention to details on foliage helped make this model stand out.

For the judges, this event was challenging as the bar had been raised from previous years with the number of quality of models competing for the top prize. The most difficult was selecting the four top winners that took home gift certificates prizes along with ribbons for winning within their perspective category. Even within the sub-categories, there were some tough calls to make and each took a long time to come to a final decision on each model. What the judges were looking mostly for was level of workmanship, level of finish and overall impression. Other things considered were display of model and was there obvious missing details or even incorrect details. When the top prize is \$1000, it's the little details that set a model apart from the rest.

There were a total of eight categories and subcategories for models to compete in. Most models were entered into Kitbashing or Scratch building, each of which had the same three

sub-categories of self-propelled, rolling stock and structures. Judges did consider if the model was in the appropriate category and a few may have done better in the proper category. Being the only entry in a category did not guarantee a blue ribbon as judges rated the models on individual workmanship and not if it was simply better or worse than others in the same subcategory.

Next years model contest has already generated interest among those viewing the results this year and learning of the great prizes they missed out on by not participating. We may even outgrow our contest display space, which was pretty much filled this year. Maybe it is time for you to start now for next years contest.

**The team at Large Scale On Line wishes to recognize and thank Aristo Craft Trains along with St. Aubin Trains for providing the great prizes.**

Check out the complete line up of contest models and winners at: [CLICK HERE](#)

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