On Thursday February 5th I meet with a friend of mine, Bill Lee, who is a professional welder. I decided that I was terrible at welding after practicing on Wednesday the 4th. I talked with him about the mount project and asked him if he could either help me learn to weld or weld the project for me. I thoroughly discussed the project with Bill and showed him the overall design. He agreed to weld the project for me, but told me to build a framework to align the bars of the mount in the proper location, so that he could weld the project without it being a hassle. I came up with an idea of building a wooden frame with him to align the parts in the proper orientation. On Friday the 6th I brought some wood and screws to the design lab and constructed this wooden frame. The frame will hold both of the L-bars of the mount at the right height and distance apart once they are placed into the circular pockets on the mounting plate.
On Friday February 6th I went to the machine shop to do some minor alterations to the mounting plate. On Thursday when I met with the welder, he thought that the circular pockets on the mounting plate needed to be larger so that the fit wasn’t so tight with L-bars for the mount. So I went to the machine shop on Friday and made the circular pockets larger. When I was done the bars fit much easier into the pockets, so I knew that it would be fine to have welded. I gave the project to him this weekend and he will have it back to me Monday evening. He will be using a TIG welder to do the welding.
Also on Friday the 6th we decided that we were going to need to have a mechanism which will compensate for the weight of the rigging and keep the rigging from coming off of the vertical rail. We decided that we would probably use some sort of bungee to do this. We figured that we will attach a bungee to the crane trolley and top of the seat which will hold the rigging with Sean at an optimal location. I followed up on some research Caitlin had done on a rope company called Novabraid. They sell a number of different types of ropes which can be used for many different applications. I contacted them via an online form on Friday and have not yet received contact from them.

This weekend I also began to research the cost of the concrete foundation for the crane. I looked at buying bags of concrete and found a type that fits the specs on the Lowe’s website. It is called profinish quickrete 5000, item # 234135, model # 1007-85. The bags cost $4.98 a piece and we would need 72 bags costing a total of 358.56 without tax. I also contacted a company in Willimantic called Builders Concrete East and they told me that a company L&M concrete, also out of Willimantic, would be a company capable of the job. I called them but got an answering machine and left a message. They contacted me Monday the 9th and I am sending them the specs and then they will send me an estimate for the job.
This coming week I will be testing the mount in a vehicle. Then on Friday we have a meeting with our client where we will be testing the device in their vehicle with the Dynavox V-max. This week I will be helping design some of the brackets we will need to fabricate to connect all of the parts of our trampoline project. This includes a bracket to attach the trolley to the vertical rail and the seat to the vertical rail. I will also be getting an updated quote from Low Cost Cranes with shipping cost. I hope to have found a company to do the concrete work for us within two weeks, but will be shopping around for the best price.