

Goodland graduate finds answers to plane questions

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

How do you build an airplane?

What makes it work?

And if you build a plane that can

lift more than

twice its weight,

how do you get

its 14-foot wing

through a door?

These are

questions an en-

gineering stu-

dent from Good-

land found an-

swers to while

working with

the aeronautical design team of the

Society of Automotive Engineers at

Kansas State University.

Bryan Mai, a 2002 Goodland

High School graduate, was on the

third-place team out of more than 30

engineering, aviation and technol-

ogy schools at the Aero Design

West international competition in

Fort Worth this spring.

Mai, along with five fellow engi-

neering students at K-State, built a

9.8-pound radio-controlled plane with a five-foot body and a 14-foot wingspan.

The plane, built of carbon fiber with one long, detachable wing made of Styrofoam covered with a thin, light-weight wood sheeting, lifted 23 pounds to finish third. And it lived to tell the tale.

"We went home with a plane that we can still show," Mai said. "Others went home with pieces."

"It's fun to watch other schools' planes crash, but not your own. You do feel bad, though, because you know they spent as much time on them."

Even though it's an extracurricular activity, not something required for class, team members devoted a lot of time and effort to their plane.

There were a lot of late nights, Mai said; it takes hundreds of hours to build a plane. And then there's getting it to the contest.

"It was interesting carrying it through doorways," Mai said.

Mai went to Fort Worth with the team from Friday-Sunday, April 22-



The Kansas State aeronautical design team posed with their plane flying over. Back row from left: Bryan Mai, Nelson Pratt and Paul Scott. Kneeling from left: Brandon Hagman and Robert Caplinger. Not pictured: Drew Thompson.

24. Friday was a test flight day, and Saturday was the first day of competition, which included a report, a

presentation and flying.

He said the team ran into problems the first day; it was windy, so

they didn't fly. Many teams wrecked their planes and were up all night fixing them.

Sunday, he said, the competition ended at noon, so the team only had time for one flight. He said they knew they would only have time for one, maybe two.

"We took a chance waiting," Mai said, "but we were confident in our plane."

Their confidence paid off, giving them a third-place finish and leaving their plane mostly in one piece.

"We were happy with ourselves," Mai said.

The purpose of the competition, he said, is to build an aerodynamic, light-weight plane that will carry as much as possible. This year, he said, the plane had to weigh under 10 pounds. In other years, restrictions have included things like a minimum or maximum wing span.

You have to have a certified pilot for safety, Mai said; there's a crowd.

To test its carrying capacity, he said, you load the plane up until you wreck it. In competition, he said,

you get points for several things.

The planes compete in open, regular and micro classes, Mai said, adding that the K-State plane was in open.

Mai said he learned a lot from working with the club.

"I went in there not knowing much about building an aircraft," he said. "With the club, you don't have to know; they teach."

Mai said he has gained an interest in aeronautical engineering, but he's not limiting his field.

"My goal (in going to K-State) was to graduate with a bachelor's degree in engineering," he said, "and to work with a firm, designing."

"I'm open to the best job opportunity; I'm not tied down to one area."

Mai said he will be a second-semester junior this fall and will have 1 1/2 years to go to get his degree.

He plans to continue working with the aeronautical team.

"I'm looking forward to competitions this year," he said. "We will start with a new plane, new rules, and start our design."

Adults in danger of having more fun than they can handle at fair

Sometimes we try to have too much fun. I guess it's no surprise that we have to pay for that.

Kids can have too much fun; adults just aren't equipped for that sort of thing. At the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair, I saw many children in blissful enjoyment of popcorn and cotton candy with no thought whatsoever to the weight they might gain. Too young to know better, I guess.

There were games for children where they were guaranteed to win a prize. Tiny kids think those little toys are the best. Adults know they will break the next day.

Children can run from games to food to rides with no thought of how much it costs. Adults know exactly how long they had to work for that money.

And children can ride a carousel or a little train that never leaves the



sharon corcoran

• just for fun

ground and think it's the greatest thing. Adults think they need a high-flying, heart-pounding experience.

So even though it had been 13 years since my last carnival ride, I got the bright idea that I'm surely not too old to hop on again. I guess my stupidity was catching — my friend, who has children my age, decided she could ride with me.

So did we pick a nice, easy, calm ride? Nope. She asked me what I like to ride, and I had been itching to get back on the Octopus. Yep, a ride that goes up and down, while

spinning in every direction imaginable.

The first sign of trouble was as they were still loading the cars. It was disconcerting enough to realize that two adults in one car is a tight fit and

that I'm tall enough I had to bend my knees to allow them to snap our car closed.

Then we got to the top and had to wait while others were being loaded. Sitting in a car at the highest point of the ride, leaning back, was not comfortable.

As we were talking about this and other problems we've had on carnival rides, I learned that my friend is afraid of heights (what?!), and then she said she might pass out before the end of the ride. I hoped she was kidding.

Soon the cars were full, and the ride took off. I was reminded of many things about the Octopus that I had forgotten. For one, the arms drop suddenly, giving riders a sinking feeling.

Then, just as you're recovering from that, they jerk back up, making you feel you will fly right out. As the ride continued, I went back and forth from screaming to laughing. A couple of times, I wondered if there's a weight limit for the seats; after all, we had the only car with two adults in it.

Then I noticed Nancy. Uh-oh, we've lost one. Stop the ride! She was gripping the handle on the side and had her head down and wasn't moving. I hoped she hadn't passed out. I tapped her arm and asked if she was OK. She said she was fine but was trying not to look down.

I then started hoping the ride

would end while Nancy was still with us.

After he let us out of our car, George, my favorite mailman, said there was a little kid on the ride by himself, but they didn't watch him; they were watching us. He thanked us for making it worthwhile to man the ride.

Perhaps we should have thought things through better before getting on that thing. After all, we had just heard that a younger friend had

thrown up on the Tilt-a-Whirl. But that didn't stop us.

I'm kind of glad, though, because that was a fun ride. Am I too old for carnival rides? Nah. But next time, I won't wait 10 years.

All-in-all, the fair was a great time. Kiwanis made the best cheeseburgers I've had in a long time, and the funnel cakes were delicious. Besides, where else can you look at art, take in a rodeo, stuff your face and shop from Avon all in one place?

matters of record

District Traffic

District Court reports no longer contain the person's age or hometown or how fast those with speeding tickets were going because of the court's change of computer program. The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

June 1 — Adrian R. Alvarez \$159 for speeding.

June 2 — Carol C. Siemienkovich \$138 for speeding.

Carlos O.A. Martinez \$192 for speeding.

William R. Logue \$159 for speeding.

Andrew J. Arcilise \$138 for speeding.

June 3 — Marios Philippou \$126 for speeding.

Lori Afridi \$80 for no child restraint.

Janis A. Argyis \$159 for speeding.

June 4 — Geoffry N. Thomas \$126 for speeding.

Peter S. Paiton \$126 for speeding.

Mathew D. Erickson \$168 for speeding.

Shannon L. McClary \$159 for speeding.

June 5 — Candice M. Spidell \$150 for improper parking.

Christopher L. Simington \$159 for speeding.

Joel Sanchez \$132 for speeding.

Lindy B. Burk \$108 for speeding.

Victoria G. Cavit \$168 for speeding.

Andrea J. McCormick \$126 for speeding.

Jeffrey Haselhorst \$240 for speeding.

Tina M. Bargaen \$138 for speeding.

June 6 — Danielle M. Wade \$120 for speeding.

Ameed Sherzada \$153 for speeding.

Jimmie D. Rice \$216 for speeding.

Lisa M. Ohearn \$120 for speeding.

Elizabeth A. Lutmerding \$186 for speeding.

Erin M. Jensen \$138 for speeding.

June 7 — Mark J. Stoutzenberger \$96 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Noy S. Tiengkham \$114 for speeding.

Rodolfo A. Orozco \$168 for speeding.

Rene L. Neal \$150 for speeding.

Esperana Silva \$186 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

James A. Doherty \$114 for speeding.

Harold L. Bell \$120 for speeding.

June 8 — Anita F. Dodge \$168 for speeding.

Judy A. Walburn \$120 for speeding.

Frank E. Rogers \$126 for speeding.

Greg A. Sabouri \$120 for speeding.

June 9 — Terry D. Hammond \$117 for over weight limit on wheels and axles.

If you miss the Safeway circulars

we do too-

Call Jeff Stroh with Safeway to ask him to put them

The Goodland Star-News

and

The Country Advocate

303-843-7671

Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16		
17				18						19		
20			21		22	23						
24				25	26							
27	28	29	30		31				32	33	34	
35		36			37			38	39			
40					41				42			
43				44	45				46			
47			48	49				50		51		
52								53		54		
55	56	57						58		59	60	61
62					63	64	65	66		67		
68					69					70		
71					72					73		

CLUES ACROSS

- Digits
- Gnawing animals
- Dressed
- Siberian river
- Saying
- Tactic
- Unit
- More coherent
- Off-Broadway theater award
- Unmakes
- Empty
- In a way, hacks
- Large integers
- Bed
- Expunction
- Male turkey
- Maids
- Dignitary
- Bowhead, for one
- Marsh hen
- George ___, playwright
- Family symbols
- Good Gosh!
- Colloid
- Vocal composition
- ___ Kapital
- Amazing
- Fiddler crabs
- Sports equipment
- Capital of Yemen
- Kinsmen
- In a way, altered
- Mother of Cronus and the Titans
- Snoozed
- Swiss river
- A rhythmical swing
- Excessively fat
- Auld lang ___, good old days
- Ailments
- Laborer
- Used to have (Scottish)

CLUES DOWN

- Armadillo
- Divination
- Oh, God!
- A group of islands in the S Pacific
- Montana or Bradshaw
- Minnesota town
- Container
- Deteriorate
- Waiter
- Slang for lots of reptiles
- Peoples of south central Congo
- Hindu calendar month
- Insect repellent
- X X X
- Again
- Beasts
- Sour gum trees
- Crowed
- Greek letter
- Bangladeshi coins
- Flanks
- Soviet city
- Pre-Mayan civilization
- Pearl ___, hostess with the mostest
- Retained
- Vietnamese currency unit
- Japanese beverage
- A list of options
- Erudition
- More demented
- Strips
- Cause to be embarrassed
- Wrinkled fruit
- Arrest
- Any small compartment
- Common Indian weaver-bird
- Eagle
- Transfer property
- Japanese sash
- Buddhism
- Compass pt.

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:



dine-in
carry-out
delivery

1803 Cherry
Goodland, Kan.
67735
899-3661