From the Desk of... Jack Champaigne

 Workshop '95: We survived the workshop in New Orleans (New Orleans). Barely. Let me explain. Have you ever been on Bourbon Street in New Orleans on Halloween? The costumes, and lack of costumes, were quite interesting. To say the least. And...the further down Bourbon Street we got the weirder it got. Believe me. And Pam loved it.

Special Shot Peener Thanks for Dean Davies and Bill Rhodaberger of Ervin Industries. I forgot to ask them in advance to supply us with the shot sample cards (as they have in the past). It was 5:30 on the Friday before the Workshop before I realized my oversight. I sent a fax and pleaded. And, as I expected, 80 sample cards arrived at our hotel time for each student to get one. Thanks to all of our friends at Ervin Industries, maker of Amasteel Shot.

Friends of Darrell McKinley's, U.S. Navy (he must have some) need to ask him about his presentation. Seems like he wanted to pretend to be "Deer in Headlights" for a while. Someone, we aren't real sure who, modified his slide presentation and added the following background information:

Caution:
1. I am a certified lunatic
2. I get out three times a year
3. Please speak slowly
4. Do not make quick movements
5. No sharp implements nearby
6. If you are confused, just smile and nod

Note: No matter what the payback is, and I'm sure there will be one, it was worth it.

Special thanks to Dwight Lutsko of Jet Wheelblast. He says I never told him ahead of time that he had to give two presentations at the workshop. The guy shows up with a huge slide collection and puts together a marvelous presentation that was flawless (well, nearly perfect). Thanks Dwight. And thanks to Jet Wheelblast for all of their support for the workshop and The Shot Peener.

One of our best students, Ted Kavanaugh from Air New Zealand, was kind enough to bring lapel pins for me and Pam. Thanks Ted, a gold star goes by your name.

Dave Anderson from A-PRO got to meet New Orleans' finest. Seems he wandered a few blocks off of the main drag and was "assisted" back to a safer area.

Wheelabrator Corporation, again, did a splendid job of providing the hospitality suite and open bar, and it was crowded. We often say that a large percentage of your learning experience comes from the coffee breaks and hospitality hour and this year was no exception. Thanks to Wheelabrator, Ted Kostiilnik, Tom Warren, and Sandy Wermert.

 Renewals...for example, remember the fine article in the Fall Newsletter by Andy Levers of British Aerospace? Andy called to say he hadn't gotten his newsletter yet. I said the foreign mail (post) takes a while longer, please be patient. (You know where this story is going.) Yep. Andy had forgotten to renew his subscription. And it's free. Check your label. If it says "Subscription Expired" send in the renewal form by post or fax. This would be necessary even if you just started your subscription.

 Workshop '96 will be held in Orlando, Florida near Disney World in early November. We plan to expand the curriculum by having breakout sessions and therefore we will not have such a crowded classroom. This will allow you to pick and choose your topics of interest and you won't have to sit through the sessions that would be "boring" to you. PLEASE plan to register early. We had to turn away many people a month before the workshop this year since the classroom size was limited to 80 students. Next year we will be able to accommodate 120 students using the multi-venue system, but you still should register early and get your best price discount. And no, you don't get to keep the Almen gages used in the Almen gage practice session. And yes, every student has to complete the Almen gage repeatability and reliability gage study.

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And here's another "Deer in Headlights" impersonation as performed by Jack Champaigne. He and Darrell McKinley, U.S. Navy, were photographed at the end of the Lightning Bolt roller coaster ride at the MGM Grand Adventures in Las Vegas. Jack and Darrell were attending the AMEC conference held last June.