



The Parting Shot Jack Champaigne

A Proud Tradition

Prior to the start of the 16th annual U.S. Shot Peening and Blast Cleaning Workshop in Indianapolis this fall, Electronics Inc. sponsored a tour of the Indianapolis 500 Speedway. The tour included the Speedway museum, race facilities, a movie, and even a ride around the 2.5 mile track in a bus.

The Speedway is filled with the rich 100-year history and traditions of the race. The tour guides took every opportunity to point out the facts and milestones in speed, safety and design. They provided a real education to the true scope of racing—we knew that racing was more than just crossing the finish line but we were impressed with the tremendous amount of technology and skill that must come together to make the finish line possible. Even on race day, teams will make adjustments based on things like tire wear, driver feedback and the weather. Most of us in the shot peening industry have an engineering or mechanical background and that made us appreciate the tour even more.

Shot peening and blast cleaning, like racing, is a progressive field. Machine design, media development, training, screening and sensing are continually evolving. These innovations have led us to a practice that is controllable and repeatable. It can be confirmed



The students, exhibitors and presenters of the 2006 USA Shot Peening and Blast Cleaning Workshop

on a day-to-day basis through monitoring, measuring and analysis. And while a shot peening or blast cleaning job isn't as glamorous a career as a race car driver, let's give ourselves credit for our place in the automotive industry. The improvements we're implementing in our processes are making a big contribution to safer, faster, and stronger vehicles—Indy, Formula One and NASCAR race teams are using our shot peened components for these very reasons.

Since 1991, the EI Shot Peening and Blast Cleaning workshops have been not only an educational forum for new technologies but a networking venue for people from around the world. Out of 163 attendees, 96 were students, 35 were exhibitors and 32 were speakers. Even though it was our U.S. workshop, we had 26 students from South America, Canada, Europe and Asia and many first-time students that are new to the industry. We all continue to learn from each other. ●

Dave Beherns, President of a precision machining facility, summed up his workshop experience nicely: "At one point during the conference I thought to myself that I was proud to be part of this group."

More workshop photos are online at www.shotpeener.com



Hall of Fame Museum



Ed Richerme, Engineered Abrasives, takes a photo opportunity in an Indy car



Kissing the bricks is an Indianapolis tradition