



The Parting Shot Jack Champaigne

Crossing the Bridge

New hotel for upcoming Arizona workshop

We have so many workshop registrations that our original hotel cannot accommodate us and we have found a larger facility. Both hotels are making the transition as smooth as possible for us and our attendees. We will be taking care of all arrangements for registrants and will contact you with information on the new hotel, the Crowne Plaza San Marcos Resort. This is a beautiful resort and a great location for the workshop and trade show. We look forward to seeing you there.

ICSP10 is quickly approaching

This will be a remarkable event, thanks to the hard work of the organizing committee. As of August 24, 2007, 91 abstracts had been submitted. For those of you that have never attended an International Conference on Shot Peening, it is great way to be on the cutting edge of industry knowledge. For more information, email the Conference Secretary, Dr. Yoshihiro Watanabe, at: y_watanabe@toyoseiko.com

We have a saying in America, "We will cross that bridge when we get to it." It means that we will delay dealing with a problem until we can no longer avoid it. That time is now for our overworked and aging bridges.

At the time of publication, we have no proof that the Minneapolis bridge collapse was due to metal fatigue of crucial weld joints. But our research has yielded that weld joints could be a weakness in U.S. steel truss bridges built in the 1960s. I believe, without a doubt, that a controlled shot peening process is a solution. As Sylvain Forgues mentioned in his article on page four, the library at www.shotpeener.com has 120 articles, written by researchers around the world, on the shot peening of welds. Mr. Forgues is the Canadian distributor for the StressVoyager®, a product manufactured by Sonats. The StressVoyager, portable and environmentally-friendly, is ideal for peening bridge welds. "Sadly, sometimes a tragic event like the bridge collapse makes people think outside the box and consider something new like needle peening," said Mr. Forgues. Unfortunately, shot peening is not a widely-used maintenance or repair treatment for U.S. bridges at this time. Since most bridges are government-owned, pursuing this business is difficult and waiting for the business to come to us is frustrating especially when we know that shot peening makes bridges safer and can save lives.

Some in our industry are successfully marketing their services for bridge maintenance/repair and new construction. Metal Improvement Company promotes their on-site shot peening services for welded fabrications, including bridges. Wheelabrator Group is exhibiting at the World Steel Bridge Symposium and Workshops in New Orleans this December. Wheelabrator Group will exhibit shot peening machines for new bridge components. **The Shot Peener** staff is continually exploring new avenues for shot peening products and services. The readership to our magazine is far-reaching and we put the magazine in the hands of people that want to learn about the process and its benefits to their products. We are always amazed at the requests we receive for the magazine from unexpected sources.

That's one of the many reasons **The Shot Peener** will always be a free publication—its purpose is to spread the word to as many people as possible that we have a solution for metal fatigue problems. It's a good feeling to be in a business that can make travel, in so many forms, safer. We can all be confident in crossing that bridge. ●

