

The US Shot Peening and Blast Cleaning Workshop

Celebrating 25 Years

IT WAS A CRAZY IDEA. Bring OEMs, sales reps, process engineers, and machine operators together for three days, feed them sandwiches, and share information on the products and procedures of one of the smallest niches in manufacturing. A niche that services industries that keep their processes more private than politicians with their home phone numbers. Yep, that's gonna work really well.

But, somehow, it did. It's worked for 25 years and, thankfully, the food has greatly improved.

Rather than tell you how the annual Electronics Inc. Shot Peening workshops have benefitted the shot peening industry since the first workshop in 1991 in Atlanta, Georgia, we will let the participants do the telling. The following are the thoughts of exhibitors, instructors and students. They were invited to answer one or more of the following questions:

- 1) How have the US shot peening workshops benefited you personally?
- 2) How have the US shot peening workshops benefited your company or organization?
- 3) In your opinion, how have the US shot peening workshops impacted the shot peening and blast cleaning industries?
- 4) What has been your most memorable workshop experience?

Michele Bandini, Peen Service (Instructor)

It is a long time since I attended my first US workshop. As a rough idea, close to twenty years. A business trip is often a good occasion to meet new people and make new experiences. This is always a good thing and not only from a professional point of view. If it happens that you can have spare time to look at new places and relax, then it becomes perfect.

From a professional point of view, a workshop is always a great time to discuss shot peening or related treatments with people interested in the same topics. As a presenter, I like the question and answer session at the end of each class. It's the time where you understand if you hit the target but, even more important, you can also pick up ideas for new topics to investigate.

It is a great way to build knowledge to give answers to real company needs.

Several times I had the occasion to meet people who attended the workshops and each time I found very qualified people. After the workshop, when people come back to their



companies, they can put knowledge into practice, building expertise. In addition, matching and sharing experiences during the workshop is a wonderful way to grow. Companies are made of people.

I had the honour of receiving the "Shot Peener of the Year" award in 2009. Jack and all the other guys at Electronics Inc. organized everything, keeping me completely in the dark. They asked for my picture and my biography, offering strange excuses like "we have to update our database." I had been caught in the net like a fish! I discovered everything during the opening session; I was really astonished. Great, Jack.

Bill Barker, Progressive Surface (Instructor and Exhibitor)

Here is one of my favorite recollections: It was the workshop held in Scottsdale, Arizona back in 1997 I believe. Jack invited all of the speakers and exhibitors to a jeep ride and cowboy dinner out in the desert. Everyone had a really good time with great food and fun company, along with some memorable games of "skill." Charlie Mason just couldn't shoot straight in the quick draw contest (actually not his fault) and Dale Lombardo obliterated a tomahawk-throwing target. Many thanks to EI for some great memories over the past 25 years.



Walter Beach, Peening Technologies (Exhibitor)

I've been attending the workshops since the early 1990s. In that time I've met many great people across the industry and even made a few friends! The ability to network with other people and companies in the shot peening industry is second to none at these events. That's why I've gone back year after year.

For me, as I mentioned, the benefit to Peening Technologies is the networking. This has been a key element for us. We have been able to meet and work with some of the best people and companies the industry has to offer. Not to mention the classroom activities—while some classes are for the newbie, I'm always amazed how there is always something new out there. This is a great place to keep up with current technology and potentially learn where the industry is headed.

In my opinion, EI has done a fantastic job of finding



a niche role inside of what is already a niche business. EI's products and training have helped remove much of the cloud over what was once described as the "Black Art of Shot Peening." Both continue to evolve as new specifications and technologies are introduced.

While I've always had a good time at all the workshops, if I have to pick just one, I'd have to say it was my first workshop. This was when I met Mr. Jack Champaigne. I'm guessing this was the very first workshop. He took me under his wing from the beginning. Although Jack is more than 20 years my senior, we hit it off right away! (Jack has a gift for relating to people, regardless of their age, education or background.) I could see we shared a similar vision for the shot peening industry and Jack and his team understood many of the problems that plagued the industry. I knew right then that this was the place to be to help us get where we wanted to go. While we may not be there yet, we are a heck of a lot closer than we were 25 years ago, thanks to Jack and his team.

Roberth Blomberg, GKN Aerospace Engine Systems Sweden (Student)

I've increased my knowledge about shot-peened processes and new methods like flapperpeen/ultrasonicpeen and needlepeen. I also received a wider contact base. My Level 3 Certificate is appreciated to show auditors.



Shotpeen is a rather unknown method in the world and this is a great place to send employees to increase their knowledge about the process. It is not possible to get local courses in my country.

It's a great place for both suppliers and users to get together. The t-shirt logotype is always a fun thing! The Schwarzenegger t-shirt was one of the best!

John Cammett, Consultant (Instructor)

With great pleasure I report that I have participated as an instructor in each of the twenty-five EI Annual USA Shot Peening Workshops. At last reckoning it seems that I am the only individual who can make this claim. There have been so many memorable events I hesitate to single out any in particular. Let it suffice to say I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching and interacting with students and other workshop participants over the years.



It is especially rewarding to receive compliments and to know thereby that my efforts have been appreciated. I am especially grateful to Jack and the EI staff for the opportunity they have provided me to serve the industry. I have seen much growth in numbers and in technical capability in the industry worldwide over these twenty-five years. The Workshops have been an instrumental part in all of this.

Dan Dickey, Innovative Peening Systems (Exhibitor and Instructor)

My most memorable workshop experience was in 1991, the first workshop in Atlanta. I was one of about a dozen other students. If I remember correctly, we had lunch from Subway that day. I have been attending and associating with the workshop ever since. Twenty-five years is a long time and I cannot remember ever missing one since 1991. The workshop has progressed in many ways since that time. The technology, instruction, organization and companionship have steadily improved every year. I am glad my company has been associated with such a great success and organization.



Sylvain Forgues, Shockform Aeronautique (Instructor and Exhibitor)

I have been attending the US shot peening workshop for more than 10 years now. This annual meeting is one of my favorites because it allows me to feel the pulse of the shot peening community, from suppliers, to competitors, to clients, all in one place.



It is a great place to meet with all the major actors in the community and show our technology to many potential clients. I like to bring my new employees to the US workshop to complete their training on shot peening and blast cleaning and to meet potential clients. Meeting a person face to face to discuss their application is priceless.

The training given at the US shot peening workshops has been instrumental in raising the overall level of knowledge on shot peening and blast cleaning. As president of Shockform, I travel the world to meet with clients. Over the years, I have seen a steady and continuous improvement in the knowledge of most of my clients. I think EI and the shot peening workshops are a big reason for this.

My most memorable US workshop is the one held in October 2015 where I was named the Shot Peener of the Year. I was honored and very proud to receive this award, especially because of the great people that received it before me. I will always remember this moment.

Teddi Gillespie, Premier Shot Company (Exhibitor)

Premier Shot has been attending the workshops for 25 years. Bob Gillespie was a speaker at every one until his death in 2011. We have made numerous friends over the years, and value each and everyone of them. Not only were they there for us during the time after Bob's death, but are still very helpful.



We always enjoy the workshops. Meeting with people, some for the first time and some that come year after year, is always a pleasure. We are happy to talk to them about our media and it seems we usually get new customers to use our quality shot.

Every workshop is a new experience. Looking back over the years, I think the workshop we had in Arizona where we went to the dude ranch was the most memorable one.

Any workshop that brings quality material to the attendees, like the EI Workshop does, has to have a very positive result in the industry. All of the info to the young people starting out in the industry has to be a good thing.

Thank you to all of the EI personnel that spends hours on these workshops. You have done an outstanding job over the years.

Jeff Girman, Saint Gobain (Instructor)

I think the true benefit of the workshops for me is that it has allowed me to build relationships with prospective customers, other presenters and OEMs, all in one inclusive setting. I have developed many friendships both personal and business related. I have also been able to obtain vast sources of knowledge on shot peening in general that I am able to utilize every day in the field. Over time, the EI workshops has cultivated a fraternal atmosphere that has resulted in a fairly tight knit group.



Most of my experience has been as a presenter at the workshops. It has allowed me to provide more exposure to ceramic shot peening. Although the workshops have evolved over the years, most of the presentations focus more on metallic shot peening than with ceramic shot peening so it has put our product in a unique category.

The workshops have impacted the industry, particularly with shot peening. Many of my customers refer to it as the benchmark for shot peening theory and procedures. This is true even on a global basis.

I don't have one specific memory, however, I have always enjoyed the camaraderie in the evenings with customers, prospects and even some of my competitors.



Jim Harrison, Curtiss-Wright | Metal Improvement Company (Instructor)

I have been participating in EI's Workshops for about 15 years. During that time, I have had the privilege of meeting several pioneers of the shot peening industry. I have enjoyed our discussions, and the things I have learned attending presentations, and the discussions during breaks and after hours, have been invaluable. Knowing who I

can contact about technical issues is a very important resource for me and our customers.

Like Electronics Inc., Metal Improvement Company and Curtiss-Wright Surface Technologies are leaders in the shot peening industry. We feel that quality training, education and instruction in the hows and whys of proper shot peening practices are very important to the ongoing success of our industry.

When I first became involved with shot peening, nearly 35 years ago, there were many operations providing questionable quality and sub-optimal protection due to a lack of knowledge on proper peening techniques. These workshops, along with *The Shot Peener* magazine, have done much to educate both end users and suppliers of this process. As a result, the overall quality of peening that we see today is highly improved.

My most memorable experience has been the sum of the relationships that I have developed both professionally and personally from involvement in these workshops. But traveling to workshops in Canada, Mexico, Singapore and the many different US locations has been a wonderful experience as well. (My favorite place was San Miguel de Allende in Mexico. If anyone gets the opportunity to visit this area, I would highly recommend it.)



Ken l'Anson, Progressive Surface (Instructor and Exhibitor)

Congratulations Electronics Inc. on your 25th Anniversary of the Shot Peening Workshops. I'd like to offer my sincere thanks to Jack Champaigne and the large cast of characters that have made the Workshops a valuable, informative and diet-busting event.

I was one of the early adopters, attending the very first Workshop at the Atlanta Underground so many years ago, and now thinking back, there must be a couple thousand students that have attended since the first one. This success certainly shows that our industry needed a leader to organize and train operators, engineers and executives on the importance of Shot Peening. Jack has been that leader.

Over the years, I've assisted the EI team by expanding the workshops from the annual USA workshop to workshops around the globe. It's been my pleasure to attend the first Workshop, several international Workshops, and I look forward to celebrating the 25th Anniversary this fall in Indianapolis.

Congratulations and thank you for your contribution to our industry!

Brigitte Labelle, Shockform Aeronautique (Exhibitor)

I have been attending EI Workshop since 2006. As my knowledge about peening was not up to date, these Workshops were an important source of information and understanding

for me. Jack and his team always made it easy to ask questions, as basic as they might be. From new technologies, to new applications and new industries, the workshops are a fantastic opportunity to connect with new customers and colleagues.



From its creation in 2006, Shockform has benefited from exhibiting and training. The workshops are a great opportunity to present our products and ideas, and create alliances with companies and suppliers. The structure of the Workshop is very user friendly and allows for easy discussions and contacts with the attendees.

Of course, having the main workshop in the USA makes it easy for people around the world to gather and learn about the newest technologies and also revisit the basics. There is no other event like the EI Workshop around the world.

My most memorable experience was my first workshop and last year's workshop, when Sylvain Forgues, my associate at Shockform, won the Shot Peener of the Year award.

Lars Larsson, GKN Aerospace Engine Systems Sweden (Student)

Electronics Inc. Shot Peening workshops are a great way to spread the knowledge and the “know-how” around shot peening. To meet and discuss problems and solutions with other shot peening engineers has been really helpful. Other “special processes” should use this way of working to widen the knowledge around the process.



Keep up the good work.

Duncan Painter, Cargolux (Student)

I attended three workshops and earned the Level 3 Achievement Exam Certificate. This has given me a very good knowledge in the Shot Peening methods I require.



With my acquired knowledge, we have been able to set up a Shot Peen department doing Rotary Peening, Boeing Manual Shot Peening, and an automated process for Goodrich wheel repairs. This has saved a lot of time and cost.

If you want the latest and best knowledge from the Shot Peen industry, you must visit the US Workshops.

My most memorable experience was being able to confidently sit for the Level 3 exam.

Terry Reckert, OSB Sales and Consulting (Instructor)

Through nearly a 20-year association with EI and the

workshops, I have been fortunate to establish lasting friendships with many individuals in the peening industry.



We have also been fortunate to establish working relationships with many companies in the peening industry, delivering sieve calibration services and optical imaging systems to optimize the quality control of their media.

There is nothing else like the EI workshops to educate individuals in the industry on all aspects of peening.

The Arizona workshop with Hummer rides in the desert, a chuck wagon dinner, fast-draw competition, and beautiful weather was my most memorable workshop experience.

Herb Tobben, Clemco Industries (Instructor and Exhibitor)

The workshops broadened my knowledge of shot peening specifications and they provide training for new Clemco personal. They have made owners and operators of shot peening job shops aware of the correct procedure for shot peening. Receiving the 2010 Shot Peener of the Year award was my most memorable workshop event.



Philip Waser, Ervin Industries (Instructor)

These workshops have been ideal in assembling the world's most advanced minds for training and establishing good business relationships.

These workshops have taught the technical details of Shot Peening and Blast Cleaning to our Sales and Distribution groups so they can be more helpful to our end-user markets.

We think the EI Workshop's design of continuing education and technology advancement is the most effective way to grow and educate the peening and cleaning markets.



My most memorable workshop experiences have been networking with the people from different companies, processes and applications, including the tours at Delta's repair facility in Atlanta.

Mike Wern, Engineered Abrasives (Exhibitor and host of many Workshop events)

The workshops have furthered my knowledge on peening. As an exhibitor, we've been able to have a good presence in the workshops. The industry has benefited because more people are learning how much it can help strengthen their gears



blades, discs, springs, etc. My best workshop experience was in Orlando, Florida (I took the Grandkids to Disney World).

Jim Whalen, Progressive Surface (Instructor and Exhibitor)

Personally, I look forward to the Shot Peening workshop every year. I enjoy meeting the new students, and catching up with industry colleagues to keep a pulse on the shot peening industry. Additionally, in every workshop I have attended, I learn something new. Even though I have been involved in Shot Peening for 30 years, the diversity of presenters, students and trade show exhibitors always provides new ideas and insights to this mature but growing industry.

These workshops have had a tremendous impact on the industry. In the early years the workshops were attended by mostly process engineers pretty versed in the technology. But as more and more of these process engineers grasped the benefit of these workshops and promoted them internally, the demographic of the attendees has shifted to a broad range of responsibilities from operators, to engineers, to managers.

This has really elevated the Shot Peening IQ of the industry and has improved everyone's understanding of this critical fatigue improvement process. Peening is better understood and more consistently applied as a direct result of the shot peening workshops educating the industry.

Ron Wright, Wheelabrator (Instructor and Exhibitor)

We have honed our skills and knowledge, resulting in increased recognition in the field, and ultimately more business.

The workshops have created a broad baseline of knowledge for operators, engineers and quality personnel. This has helped establish common rules and protocols across the industry.

My most memorable experience? That's a tough one. However, being recognized as a contributor and meeting new and old customers is definitely the most enjoyable part.

In closing: Kudos to Jack Champaigne. Your crazy idea brought an industry out of the shadows and made it a source of pride and accomplishment (and sometimes even fun!) for so many of us. Thank you. ●



TAKING A GREAT IDEA AND RUNNING WITH IT

Dave Barkley, Director of EI Shot Peening Training, has been instrumental in making the US Workshops successful. Dave oversees all aspects of the US Workshop and conducts classes in fundamental and specialized peening processes, including rotary-flap peening. He even designs the US workshop t-shirts!



Dave Barkley,
Director of EI Shot Peening Training

Dave's influence extends beyond the US Shot Peening Workshop. Under his direction, the workshop and seminar programs have expanded in Mexico, Asia and Europe, and on-site training has grown exponentially. His expertise in rotary-flap peening has made it one of the most requested training programs. He is a FAA Safety Team (FAASTeam) Representative, specializing in shot peening education, and an active member of the SAE Surface Enhancement Committee.

Dave shares his thoughts on the US Workshop:

It's only since 2009 that I've been at the helm of EI's shot peening training but I've witnessed its history through our archives. Jack Champaigne entered this niche industry and found too many people involved in the shot peening process that didn't have any idea what it did or how important it was. That began to change in 1991 when 13 instructors and 33 students came to the table to begin improving the process.

Since then, the US Workshop has been held every year and is supplemented by smaller seminars, workshops and on-site training all over the world. EI Shot Peening Training will have surpassed 5,500 students by the time this magazine is printed. I think it would be wrong if an article looking back at our 25 years didn't acknowledge those people that helped create, maintain and present our training material. It's a long list and I won't try to name you in fear of missing one. You know who you are and I thank you. Thank you to everyone that's come to our table, and thank you to Jack for providing that table.

The largest benefit I've had from the Workshops has been the friends I've made. It's good to have someone to call when you have a problem. The shot peening industry as a whole has benefited from the networking the Workshop provides. The knowledge and experience that's exchanged at the Workshop has promoted professional control and consistent results of the shot peening process.

My most memorable Workshop is the NEXT one. I always have the next Workshop on my mind, hoping to make it a professional, educational and fun experience. ●