

The Charleston, SC General Assembly



ASSOCIATION OF CRANE & RIGGING PROFESSIONALS

MASTERLINK

Everything you've heard is true! Charleston may just be the hospitality capital of the South. Likewise, the 2008 General Assembly is the place to be for the latest in technology and information. As always, it is always the place where "trainers get trained".

So you're ready for a visit to Charleston. Perfect. Take a look around this newsletter and you'll get a nice taste of the exciting educational programs we'll be offering at the 2008 ACRP General Assembly.

To register for the ACRP 2008 General Assembly, watch your mail within the

next 10 days for the big envelope, labeled with the term "Registration Package Enclosed". Or if you are impatient, you will receive a email when you can register on-line.

This is a must attend meeting for all ACRP members. The education opportunities provided by the Assembly committee are necessary for you to improve your knowledge of the industry in which you make your living. ACRP offers these educational opportunities but once a year so attendance is critical.

The following are just some of the agenda items that more than justify the time and

expense of your attendance.

- Inspection, Testing & Reporting with RFID
 - Inspection of Boom, Jib, Tower & Mast Sections
 - Hands On Demos:
 - N4 Systems
 - Mobile Testing &
 - InfoChip Systems
 - The Crosby Group
 - Wire Rope Construction
 - Round Sling Inspection
 - Establishing a Compliant Lifting Device Program for Canada's East Coast Naval Facility
 - Syncrude's Kroll 10000 Build
 - Synthetic Ropes in the Power Industry.
- Charleston, SC in May 2008 is the place to be, so... *are you packed yet?*

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- Message from the COB
- Charleston May 13-16, 2008



Mike Riggs
ACRP President

Since 1995, members of the Association of Crane and Rigging Professionals (ACRP)

have promoted safety and education for riggers, operators, trainers, and their respective companies in this often complex industry.

Our involvement does not stop there! ACRP goes further by representing the crane and rigging industry in regulatory forums to support and encourage positive changes to regulatory standards that affect the industry today as well as in the future.

Each year, the members of the ACRP and guests meet together at our National Assembly for further education, committee involvement, information exchange and a whole lot of fun! This year's assembly will be held May 13-16 in Charleston, South Carolina. Information concerning planned sessions, events, sight seeing opportunities, etc., can be answered throughout this publication.

Our assembly this year has me very excited for our attendees. This year, all will be able to participate in what I have an opportunity to experience at my leisure; the ability to conduct destruction testing on new and used rigging. I receive several emails and phone calls, almost weekly with questions such as: "Is this sling or rigging hardware okay to use because of..." Or "our safety people won't let me use my two-ply 6" wide sling and it only has a 1/2" snag on one side. Do I really have to take the sling out of service?" "Does a knot in a sling really cause it to loose 50% of its strength?" These questions and many more will be answered at this years' assembly.

These questions won't just be answered by an expert making a presentation with PowerPoints and handouts but, – through **live hands on opportunities** for you to

tie a new or used sling into knots, cut or put burn marks into synthetic slings, kinks into wire rope sling, etc. and witness their destruction on a **mobile test bed** that will be available **on site!**

Learn first hand how to use the new high tech method of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) systems to streamline the inspection process. Mark your calendar to attend the ACRP General Assembly in Charleston May 13-16, 2008 and be prepared for an exciting hands-on experience in the inspection and testing of rigging gear.

See you there.



Charleston, SC
Inspection Testing Technology
May 13 - 16, 2008

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Suzanne's Sights 'n Insights



The air in Charleston was balmy when I stepped off the plane. The sunshine seemed to match people's dispositions as I wandered from hotel to hotel to try to find just the right place for ACRP to meet. There are many properties that have the desired ambience, parking facilities, meeting rooms etc., but only one that is in the heart of Charleston and somewhat in our price range... although the upper reaches... but less than the others.

Our instruction was to be in walking distance of the many sites, restaurants in the downtown area. Charlestown Place, which we had used when it wore another hotel brand name had "doubled it's rates", so we were very happy when we found a jewel, which is right across the street from the market and offered what we were looking for! Right around the corner from every site and sound that you could hope to experience.

Charleston has really come into it's own. Year's ago it was a "poor relation" to Savannah, Georgia, competing for the tourist visits and dollar....but no more. The prevailing attitude is warm Southern hospitality with a decided new - after the civil war- Scarlett O'Hara attitude. Very Cool and Chic!

The blending of old and new is at once familiar and fascinating. Before arriving, it is advisable not to eat for the better part of a month to make room for all the delicacies that abound. We found that not only hotel rooms were at a premium, but parking presents some

challenges as well in the downtown area. That's fine, because you can walk almost every place you care to go. Don't let me scare you off, if you want to drive or rent a car, just realize that you will need it only for scouting outside the city.

Scott Fleming, 2008 Convention Chairman, not to be outdone from the educational standpoint, is bringing along a portable testing bed that we will actually use to test slings to destruction... what fun. Then we can examine them and play all the "what if" scenarios we can dream up.

Like wise, I heard that Tom Gilbert, co-chair, has a boom repair surprise. It is really a joy to work with so many dedicated members. It is also amazing what can happen when people come together with a desire to work for the common good instead of bellyaching about what is wrong.

Mike Riggs, has assumed the office of President of ACRP to finish out Mike Parnell's term. Please give him a hardy welcome when you see him! Mike P' will not desert us however, he will be serving as Parliamentarian and will always be watching our back.

Congratulations are also in order for Jerry Klinke as he begins his term as Board Chairman. ACRP is lucky to not only have many talented members, but that they are willing to serve. You will remember that Jerry was the spearhead for getting I.A.C.E.T. approval for the association.

So prepare yourself, to be informed, entertained and indulged... beginning with the warm chocolate chip cookie on check in!



Doubletree
Chocolate Chip Cookie

Masterlink is published by the Association of Crane & Rigging Professionals (ACRP), with offices at 16420 S.E. McGillivray, Suite 103-133, Vancouver, WA. 98683-3461, or P.O. Box 87907, Vancouver, WA. 98687-7907. Phone: 800/690-3921. FAX: 360/834-3507. E-mail : info@acrp.net. Editor: Suzanne M. Stilwill, CTC, Executive Director. The opinions expressed in **Masterlink** are those of the individuals involved and do not necessarily represent the official position of the association. Contributed articles are welcomed. However, ACRP assumes no liability or responsibility for the return of unsolicited materials. Publication and Closing Dates: **Masterlink** is published Semi-annually. Issue dates are: April/May and September/October. The deadline for receipt of artwork and/or other advertising space reservations is the 15th of the month prior to the issue date. The deadline for receipt of artwork and/or other advertising materials is the first of the preceding month. ACRP reserves the right to reject and refuse to publish any advertising it deems unacceptable.

Why Join ACRP?

There are times when an existing member of an association, or someone considering joining such an organization, questions the worth of such an investment in both money and time.

Following is a contribution by a long time member of ACRP, one of the founding fathers and a long time Board member, Brad Closson of CRAFT Forensic Services, which eloquently addresses this issue. The worth of any organization is the member himself. What the member brings to the organization is in direct proportion to the worth he or she derives from this group of individuals.

Any member of ACRP that attends our General Assembly knows the worth of the association and the benefit of membership, so solicit others in the industry to join with us an share in the knowledge freely given by the members of ARCP.

You don't buy a newspaper — you buy news!
You don't buy life insurance — you buy security for others!
You don't buy awnings — you buy shade!
You don't buy glasses — you buy vision!
You don't buy membership in an Association — you buy valued, essential services; you buy advice of competent individuals with whom you can join hands to accomplish the things you cannot do alone!

(Contributed by Brad Closson, CRAFT Forensic Services)

ACRP Again Thanks Their 2007 General Assembly Sponsors. Their support, enables ACRP to put on fantastic programs at the annual General Assemblies

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Jerry Klinker
ACRP Board Chairman

Dear Friends

I was much honored to be selected to serve as the Board of Directors Chairman. It will be quite a challenge to live up to the very high standards set by the previous Chair, Mike Parnell, and I would like to thank him for all of his valuable contributions and hard work that has made this organization grow over the years.

As your new Chairman, let me say welcome and thank you very much for your support of the Association of Crane and Rigging Professionals (ACRP). It's hard to believe, but 2008 will be ACRP's 13th year of operation. It is also amazing that many of the same needs that spurred the development of the association in the 1990's still exist today.

ACRP was established in 1995 with a mission to improve crane and rigging activities for all industries. The association has since successfully and actively developed multiple training and inspection guidelines in support of this mission. And, our seminars and training workshops have been regarded as an invaluable resource by anyone who has ever attended these events in the past.

In 2008, ACRP will continue to do what it does best - advance the growth, awareness and knowledge of crane and rigging activities for its members. And, this year's General Assembly and workshop in Charleston, South Carolina will further educate our members about some of the new technologies and advancements made with rigging equipment inspections.

I want to thank you for your support as the Board Chairman; we have much to look forward to in the year ahead. I am supported by a terrific Board of directors and management staff. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any other member of the Board or staff with your comments and ideas.

Thank you for your continued support and spread the word about ACRP!



This is a before and after shot of the construction phase and the finished product of the Cooper River bridge. You may notice they were using several cranes on this project.

Charleston, SC 2008 General Assembly

**Scott Fleming, Unirole, Ltd.
ACRP 2008 General Assembly Chairman**

Hello to all ACRP members:

The 2008 General Assembly will be held in Historical Charleston, South Carolina, United States. Plan on joining us on May 13th to May 16th, 2008, and be ready for a Spring to remember. We think this will be a spectacular year full of fun and education in Inspection and Testing Technology.

We will be staying at the Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel at the corner of Church and Market Streets, enjoying the most excellent location in the Charleston Historic District. We will be steps from famed restaurants, King Street boutiques, antebellum mansions, “Rainbow Row”, Waterfront Park, Charleston’s High Battery, historic homes and gardens theatres, carriage rides and so much more. Charleston International Airport is only 20 minutes away.

The week will begin with our annual golf tournament on Tuesday afternoon, followed by a full slate of educational presentations beginning on Wednesday morning. Our theme for the conference is: Inspection and Testing Technologies. We will be bringing the Equipment and Technology to the assembly to better enable our members and guests to understand, answer questions and exchange knowledge in a hands-on atmosphere. We will have a full line up of educational sessions, exploring many areas and the new technology available. Please review the 2008 ACRP General Assembly Outline for a detail of our speakers and presentations.

Surrounded by the history and charm of old Charleston, the hotel is only a short drive from beautiful beaches and world class golf. The conference takes us into a holiday weekend here in Charleston, so perhaps think about extending your stay and enjoy “Charleston Harbor Fest.”



**Scott Fleming 2008
General Assembly
Chairman**



General Assembly Committee

**ACRP Spring Master Link
2008 Assembly Sub-Chair Report
Thomas F. Gilbert**



I am excited about the 2008 Assembly with the theme of Rigging Inspection/testing. As an engineer by trade, this brings out the “techie” side of me. Scott Fleming has put together a great program and I am glad to support him as a Sub-Chair. The hands-on part of inspection/testing at this Assembly is valuable technical information that we as engineers/trainers usually rely on testing reports furnished by others. Now we get to be sort of like the folks on the TV show Myth Busters! A great opportunity for all.

Now, looking ahead to 2009 ACRP Assembly we are going to Las Vegas (AKA” Lost Wages” – wonder who I heard that from!) with a theme of Why Gamble with Rigging? I’ll be looking for a Sub Chair to support me in this effort, so don’t be shy!

It seems like just yesterday when I attended my first ACRP Assembly in 2003 and you all were so welcoming and supportive- how could I not sign up! Hospitality, great knowledgeable trainers, engineers and business owners, willing to share rigging experiences and information – it doesn’t get any better than that.

Looking forward to seeing you all in May at our Charleston Assembly – don’t miss out on this opportunity to see the latest RFI inspection of rigging and testing of slings.



Doubletree Guest Suites Charleston-Historic District

181 Church Street
Charleston, South Carolina, USA 29401
Tel: 1-843-577-2644
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The ACRP 2008 General Assembly Hotel is the **Doubletree Guest Suites** hotel at the corner of **Church and Market Streets** enjoys the most excellent location in the **Charleston Historic District**, next to Charleston's **City Market**. Our friendly hotel, featuring the largest one- or two-bedroom suites in Historic Charleston, is steps from famed restaurants, King Street boutiques, antebellum mansions, "Rainbow Row", Waterfront Park, Charleston's High Battery, historic homes and gardens, theatres, carriage rides and more. *Charleston International Airport*, easily accessible via I-26, is only 20 minutes away.



Step through our hotel's distinctive arches into our grand lobby. The Doubletree provides legendary service, southern hospitality, traditional Charlestonian ambience and thoroughly modern amenities for business and leisure travelers.



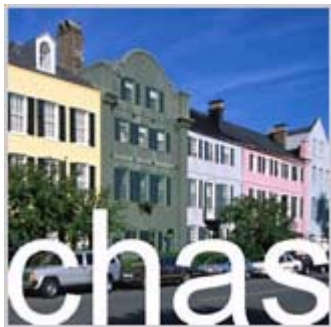
Our guests appreciate the lavish touches throughout our hotel, like freshly cut flowers and gleaming antique brass chandeliers.

Spacious guestrooms, suites and executive accommodations feature all the comforts of home and **high-speed internet access**. For your convenience, **wireless HSIA** is available in hotel public areas. A Fitness Center provides cardio equipment for on-the-road workouts. Dine at the award-winning **Hanks Seafood Restaurant**, serving the freshest seafood and regional specialties in casually elegant surroundings.

The Doubletree's classic atmosphere compliments its flexible, state-of-the-art meeting, conference, and ballroom facilities. Our professional hotel staff and business support services ensure flawless events, business or social. Surrounded by the history and charm of old Charleston, our hotel is only a short drive from beautiful **beaches** and world-class **golf**. And, the Port of Charleston cruise ship terminals are two blocks away.

The Doubletree Guest Suites Hotel looks forward to welcoming all the ACRP attendees with our special, signature warm chocolate chip cookie at check-in.





The City of Charleston is a progressive and energetic city and its goal is to provide its visitors with the best business trip that a city can provide. Charleston is indeed a special and unique city.

In Charleston, you can stand on the site of the first shot in the Civil War. Come face to face with a giant sea turtle. Take a tour of an antebellum mansion. Climb aboard a WWII aircraft carrier. There are so many blossoming gardens, so many photo opportunities and so many reasons to visit this unique southern city.

There are area tours aplenty for those interested in what Charleston has to offer. For World War buffs, there is the 888-foot aircraft carrier Yorktown. The flagship of the Patriots Point battle group. Also, the Destroyer Laffey, the Coast Guard cutter Ingham and the submarine Clamagore are also on display along with 25 aircraft, Congressional Medal of Honor Museum and Cold War Submarine memorial.

For Historians there is the Fort Sumter Tours with stops at Fort Sumter National Monument, where the Civil War began. Cruise to the island fort while you enjoy breathtaking views of Charleston and her Harbor. Depart from the Visitor Education Facility at Liberty Square downtown and from Patriots Point in Mt. Pleasant. Learn all about this storied spot of the first clash between the Union and Confederate armies in the Civil War, in which the Union forces finally surrendered after a 34-hour bombardment by the Rebels.

And, with its beautiful weather, history and charm, it's no wonder that so many travel to Charleston. But, that's not all the region has to offer. In fact, the Charleston area boasts some of the best restaurants in the Southeast. And, did we mention the shopping? ***Come take a look for yourself!***



Southern charm, hospitality and history imbue Charleston, one of the most well-preserved cities in the United States. Visitors can't help but feel they have been magically transported to another era. Stroll down cobblestone streets past magnificent churches, grand mansions and beautiful gardens, all meticulously maintained. History buffs will relish the old plantations and numerous historical museums dedicated to the Civil War and the Old South.

Steeped in tradition, Charleston still manages a modern flare. Fine restaurants featuring gourmet Southern cuisine and fashionable boutiques line the streets of downtown. This effortless mix of past and present attracts visitors from around the world.

Plus your hotel is right next to the public market area. The City operates Building C of Charleston's historic public market, offering very affordable space to over 50 vendors for the operation of small businesses. The Market is open 365 days per year, with regular daytime and evening hours.



Medal of Honor Museum and Cold War Submarine memorial.





2008

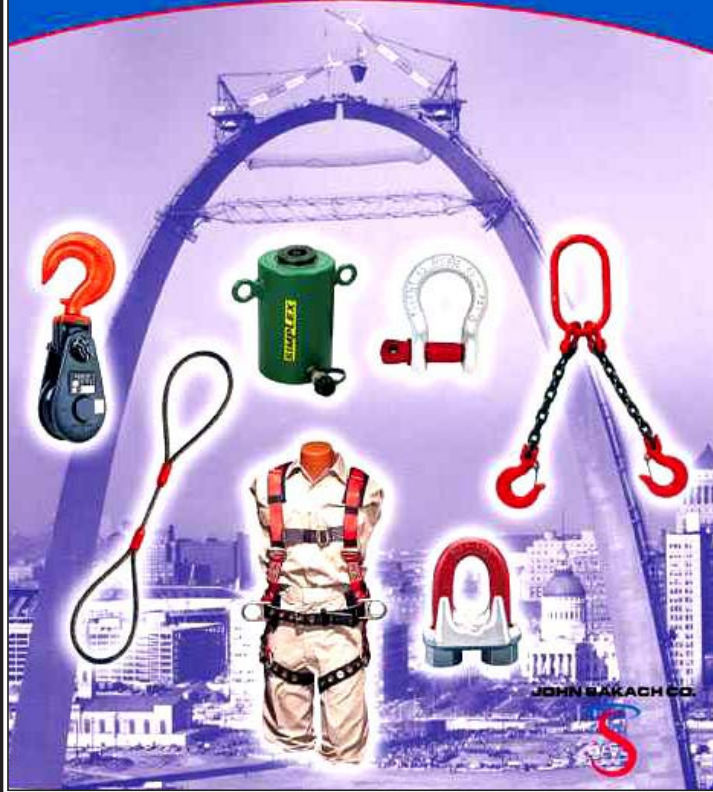
National Assembly & Workshop
Over A Decade of Excellence in Training

May 13-16, 2008

Tentative Agenda
 Doubletree Hotel, Charleston, SC

<p>Tuesday May 13, 2008</p>	<p>8:00 AM 12:00 PM 1:00 PM 6:00 PM 1:00 PM 6:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:00 PM</p>	<p>Board Meeting Golf Tournament Registration Welcome Reception - Cocktails & Hor d'Oeuvres</p>
<p>Wednesday May 14, 2008</p>	<p>7:15 AM 8:00 AM 8:30 AM 8:30 AM 9:15 AM 9:15 AM 9:30 AM 9:30 AM 10:45AM 10:45 AM 11:00AM 11:00 AM 12:15PM 12:15 PM 1:00PM 1:00 PM 5:00PM</p>	<p>Opening Breakfast (Sponsorships Available, Contact the Association Office) General Session - Welcome, Opening, Review of Assembly Goals ACRP Rigging Jeopardy - Session 1 Break Presentation - Inspecting, Testing & Reporting using RFID - Somen Mondal & Chris Gelowitz Break Presentation - Inspection of Boom, Jib, Tower & Mast Sections - Keith Crider Lunch Demonstration - Hands on Sessions on Mobile Testing & Inspection N4 Systems, InfoChip Systems, Inc., The Crosby Group Dinner on your own</p>
<p>Thursday May 15, 2008</p>	<p>7:30 AM 8:00 AM 8:45 AM 8:45 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 10:15 AM 10:15 AM 11:30 AM 11:30 AM 12:30 PM 12:30 PM 1:30 PM 1:30 PM 2:15 PM 2:15 PM 2:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:00 PM 4:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:00 PM</p>	<p>Sponsored Breakfast General Session- Assembly Update and ACRP Jeopardy Challenge Presentation - Threading Thru the Jungle of Wire Rope Construction & Classifications - Knut Buschman Break Presentation: Round Sling Inspection & Testing - Mike Riggs Lunch Presentation - Establishing a Compliant Lifting Device Program for Canada's East Coast Naval Facility - John Forsythe & Bob MacNeil Committee Overview/Goals Update Break Committee Breakout Meetings and Reports Election Results and Business Meeting ACRP Dinner Banquet</p>
<p>Friday May 16, 2008</p>	<p>7:30 AM 8:00 AM 8:45 AM 8:45 AM 9:45 AM 9:45 AM 10:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 11:45AM 1:00 PM</p>	<p>Sponsored Breakfast Presentation: Syncrude Kroll 10000 Build - Ernie Sheaves Presentation: Synthetic Ropes in the Power Industry - Shaun Glass & Lloyd Goodine Break Rigging Jeopardy Awards and Closing Board meeting All board members are requested to attend</p>

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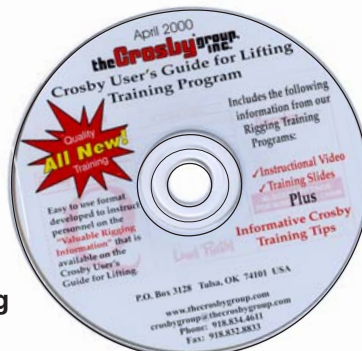
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- Provides the highest quality products available, **Crosby**
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Contact us for more details on how you can receive a copy of our CD-ROM, as well as additional training tools.



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**ASSOCIATION OF CRANE &
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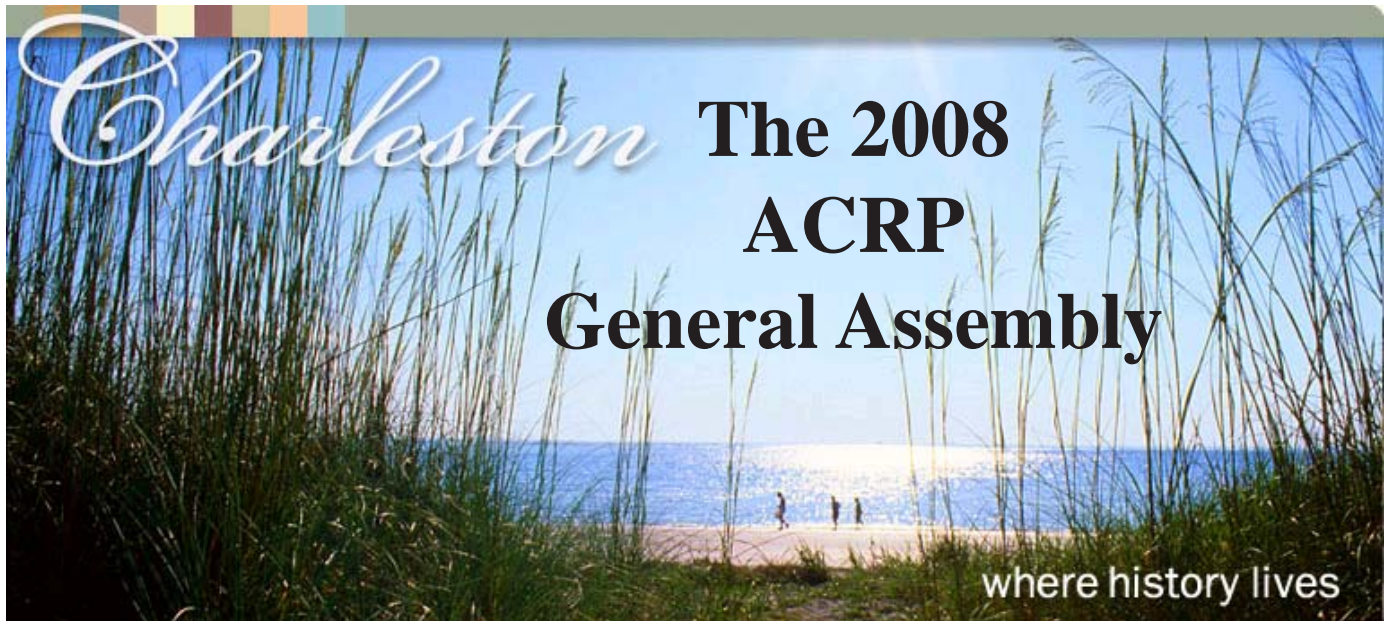
*"Dedicated to Improving Crane
Operations and Rigging Activities
in All Industries"*

**We're on the
Web
www.acrp.net**

The ACRP Mission

The purpose of the Association will be to promote lifting equipment safety, improve the quality of lifting equipment training, consulting, and inspecting, and to represent the subject of lifting equipment safety in regulatory forums.

From ACRP's By-Laws, adopted May 20, 1996,
Revised April 2003



***Inspection Testing Technology
May 13 - 16, 2008***