

# Structural Engineers Association of New York Young Member Group

## Empire State Building Observation Deck Tour Empire State Building, New York City April 25, 2019



On April 25, SEAoNY's Young Members Group organized a trip up the Empire State Building for fifty structural engineers. Perhaps surprisingly, many of the attendees had never before ascended arguably the most famous structure in North America. Although the night was cool and windy, the rain held off for the most part and there were spectacular views of the city in all directions. From the Freedom Tower to the south, the Chrysler Building to the north, the Williamsburg Bridge to the east and to Hudson Yards in the west, the views only improved as the sun went down and lights began to appear across the city. Members enjoyed searching for their own projects as well as the city's many famous buildings from this incredible vantage point.

For the more historically-minded, information about the construction of the Empire State Building provided was just as interesting. Completed in 1931, after only a year and twenty-five days of construction - a demanding schedule that required the completion of a floor a day- the structure remained the tallest building in the world for almost forty years. Photos of the construction process (typically featuring a shirtless man sauntering across a girder fifty stories up, cigarette in hand and no OSHA equipment in sight) reinforced the impression that this was really an impossible feat of engineering audacity.

A happy hour at Slattery's kept the night going with informal networking and good conversation. It was an evening to celebrate the buildings of New York, old and new, and a reminder of the achievements of generations of structural engineers who continue to push the boundaries and shape the skyline of the City.

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