

Gary C Worrell

From: Gary C Worrell [gcw@igx.net]
Sent: 11 April, 2008 20:28
To: gcw@igx.net
Subject: Postcard
Attachments: SpaceNeedle01a.jpg; SpaceNeedle02a.jpg; SeattleFromNeedle01a.jpg; OlympicMountains01a.jpg; DaliLamaLineKeyArena.jpg

If there is a list of the most recognizable structures in the United States, surely the Space Needle in Seattle is on it.

When it was built in 1961-62 for the Seattle Worlds Fair, it was the tallest building west of the Mississippi at 605 feet. The highest accessible level is the observation deck at 520 feet, with the world's second rotating restaurant just below it. The first rotating restaurant was in Honolulu above the Ala Moana Mall, but it is now closed, making the "Sky City Restaurant" the oldest rotating turntable restaurant still in operation.

Originally the Space Needle was called the "Space Cage," and the restaurant was called the "Eye of the Needle."

The 125 ton rotating platform rests on what can be roughly described as a railroad track, and the motor that spins it is only 1.5 horsepower.

Needless to say, on a clear day the view is spectacular. Today, however, there was a lot of moisture in the air. Mount Rainier was just barely visible, a little over 60 miles away.

I ate lunch in the restaurant. There is a minimum of \$25/person food charge. Not to worry though, the cheapest entrée on the menu (including entrée salads & sandwiches) was \$25.

As a side note – the Dali Lama is in Seattle today, appearing at the Key Arena (see attached photo of line) right next to the Space Needle. I texted him a message asking if he wanted to join me for lunch and discuss world issues, but he had just eaten.

Cheers,
G.









