



FOUNDED BY
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Chairman's Corner

GREAT FALLS, VA

Richard Stokes, a National Park Service Ranger currently working at Great Falls, Virginia, spoke briefly at the meeting on March 9. He drew attention to the climbing register in the Visitor Center at Great Falls, and while emphasizing that registration was strictly voluntary, asked for the cooperation of all climbers in signing in and out. He stressed this was for the protection of climbers (if you haven't signed out by closing time they'll come looking to see if you are in trouble) and also helps the Park Service by giving them a chance to discourage the "clothesliners" before they get started. The Park Service has competent, trained manpower in case of emergencies but may require additional assistance in the event of an accident. The register will help them quickly locate experienced climbers who are in the Park at the time. The Park gate will be locked at night; right now closing time is 7:30 PM but will become later as the evenings get longer. No pitons or bolts are to be used except in Norris' Aid area. Let's

give them our full cooperation-- and pray for similar rapport with Catoctin eventually.

On Sunday, April 24, the Park Service will stage a Mock Rescue (probably in the vicinity of Juliet's Balcony) at 11:00 AM, preceded by a discussion on radio procedures, emergency equipment etc. at 10:00 AM. The public is invited and encouraged to attend. For exact location and further details, contact Rich Stokes at 759-2925.

Training Briefs

As of the first of April, a new training program will be in effect. A classroom session will be held prior to the training sessions at Carderock. Attendance at the classroom sessions will be mandatory for all students wishing to participate in the Sunday training sessions held at Carderock. The classroom sessions will be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 8:00 PM at PATC headquarters, 1718 N Street NW, Washington D.C. Direct any questions concerning the new training program to Rick Todd (439-0672).