

## **Norsk Grotteblad nr 36, August 2000**

### **Pluraprojektene, 1987-1988-1991-1993-1996**

After reading an article about the discovery of Sandåggrottene (Skrim) i the newspaper Aftenposten in 1980, the interest for cave diving woke up. In 1983 Stein Johnsen and Ronny Arnesen started to explore more of the caves on Skrimfjell. The cooperation project in Glomdalen (1985) between english (Geoff Crossley and Jim Abbot) and Norwegian cave divers (Stein Johnsen, Ronny Arnesen og Dan Grepprud) was a big event. The cooperation resultatet in a half an hour TV film on Norwegian Broadcasting.

After a very succesful cave diving project in Fosshølet (1987), Bjørn Olav Steihaug, Ronny Arnesen and Stein Johnsen went to the resurgence of Pluras underground river. The reason was that Stein Erik Lauritzen wanted us to do some measurement of the system.

The river Plura starts from Store Kalvatn and continues down Plurdalen, in Rana municipality, Nordland county. After some km in the valley, the river suddenly disappear under a pile of stone and sand. It is impossible to follow the river further. It is possible to se tracks of dry river passage at the surface, which is dry because of the damming at Store Kalvatn ???

There are two huge dolines further down the valley, named Trollkirka and Steinugleflåget. They are assumed to be right above the underground river of Plura. In 1986 Christian Rushfeldt and his brothers Øystein and Helge found a way through the blocks in Steinugleflåget, after a long and systematic search. They discovered three sumps that most probably belong to the underground river of Plura.

The underground river of Plura is 2,6 km long, measured in airline from the stone/sand pile to the resurgence at Jordbru. Nobody knew if this big system hidet big underground caverns and passages.

In 1980 Bjørn Fagertun and Svein Grundstrøm from Mo i Rana dived 50 meters into the resurgence of Plura (NGB nr 18, 1980).