

Redning av Pluto

Pluto rescued

The author was at work in Oslo when his climbing companion Lars Tore Ludvigsen telephoned from Larvik. A dog was said to have fastened in a fissure on the Kjerag plateau (at Lysefjorden near Stavanger). After a number of consultations they decided to leave for Kjerag in the morning. With a great deal of effort some special equipment – two ropes each of 200 m length and a drill hammer – were produced. In Larvik a large car was filled with other climbing gear. Larvik was left at 05.30 a.m. and the parking lot for Kjerag was reached in 5 hours.

They were met by people who had come forward to assist in carrying. The gear was sorted in 7 sacks with particular attention to the long ropes. Departure at 12.30 with arrival at the fissure at 14 hours.

No sound was heard from Pluto. The climbing started at the place where she was said to have fallen. The fissure was 80 cm at the top, quickly narrowing to 50 cm. The technical problems are described. At 20 m. depth barking was heard from a point below and to the left. The climbers ascended and localized a point on the surface below which Pluto was thought to be. A new main belay was set, with intermediates at 23 and 32 m depth. Here the width was 27-28 cm. The climbers abandoned the rope sack and proceeded downwards drawing the rope out in a loop. Another bolt was set at 46 m. Pluto was discovered 4 m below, and Lars Tore freeclimbed down and put the reluctant Pluto in a cave sack which was securely tied. The ascent took 1 hour 20 minutes, bypassing the most difficult belay points the climbers had ever been exposed to.

At 19 hours the packing of the equipment could start. An unknown benefactor provided the climbers with a hotel room for the night.

Details are given about equipment and climbing technique. It is emphasized that extensive training and thorough preparation are essential for success in such an operation.