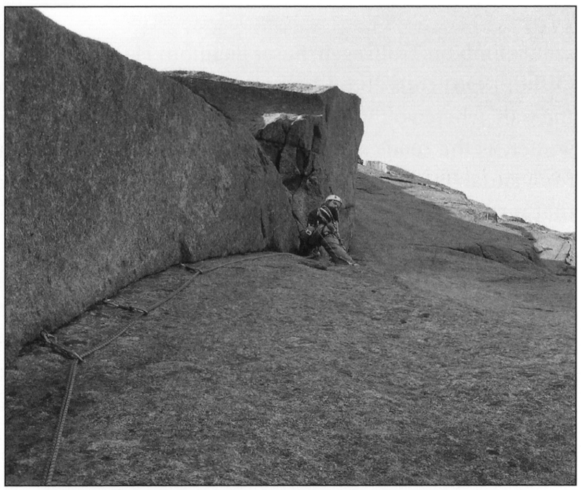
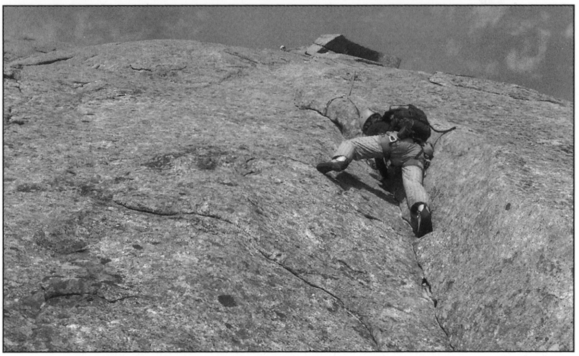
LOFOTEN

Austvagoy, Alkoholvegen, Prohibition and Drink it Up. Four young Slovak climbers, Andrej Harsany (21), Jan Harsany (16), Peter Nesticky (20) and Marcel Zemko (19) visited the Lofoten Islands from June 19 to July 15. On June 29 they put up two new routes on Alkoholvegen (the Alcohol Wall), northwest of Kallevatnet on the main island of Austvagoy. The crag is home to the popular nine-pitch climb Rom and Cola (5.8, Bjornstad-Bjornstad-Meyer, 1977).



Andrej Harsany on the first ascent of Drink it Up (7 pitches, UIAA VII) on Alkoholvegen. *Peter Nesticky*

Climbing in excellent weather on the previously untouched left part of the face, Jan Harsany and Zemko did Prohibition (UIAA VI+). This route is seven pitches long, with excellent crack climbing on perfect granite. Andrej Harsany and Nesticky did Drink it Up, a seven-pitch route at UIAA VII. The first two pitches coincide with Rom and Cola, but the new route continues directly up the 100m dihedral above.



Jan Harsany on the classic Vestpillaren (13 pitches, 5.10a/b) on Preston. *Andrej Harsany*

During their stay on the island they also climbed the established routes Forside (5.8, five pitches), on the famous 150m granite pinnacle of Svolveargeita (the Svolvaer Goat above the city of Svolvaer); Mygga (Mosquito), the middle pillar on Vagakallen (5.8), climbed by the team in six pitches; and the classic Vestpillaren with the direct start (5.10a/b, 13 pitches), on Preston.

VLADO LINEK, *Slovak Mountaineering Union, Slovakia*

ROMSDAL

Trollvegen (Troll Wall), Suser gjennom Harryland, first quasi-winter and third overall ascent. Rolf Bae, Sigurd Felde, Trym A. Sæland, and I wanted to try a winter ascent of the Franskeruta on the Troll Wall, but poor weather and resulting avalanche danger made this impossible. Instead we opted for Suser gjennom Harryland, which is steep, with compact rock, and lies on the far left side of the wall. Except for a couple of pitches, where the rock is poor, this is probably the

safest climb on Trollvegen. Suser gjennom Harryland (18 pitches, Norwegian 6 and A3, Hagen-Ostbo, 1996) ends about half way up the east pillar of Trollvegen, and unlike other routes on the wall, where you walk down from the summit, it has a rappel descent. This is significant in winter, as the roads are closed. However, the route has quite a few traverses on overhanging rock, and to facilitate our descent we brought 6mm rope to fix on the two overhanging sections that involved the most traversing. We were also able to link pitches on the topo, for example rappelling from pitch 12 to 10.

We spent 11 days on the climb from March 15-25, 2007 with portaledge camps at the start of pitches six and eleven. The most difficult pitches involved largely sky- and bat-hooking, which was sometimes hard due to snow/ice on the rock. We also had to deal with poor visibility, due to spindrift and bad weather. In fact, the weather was poor at first, and we had to stay one whole day inside our ledges. However, despite snow, spindrift, and wind, we kept climbing, and for the second half of the climb the weather was good. We estimated temperatures to be between –5 and –10°C the whole time.

Activity on Trollvegen is limited these days, due to rockfall. In the summer of 2006 three teams (including Trym and I) climbed the Swedish route and a Russian team is thought to have climbed the French route.

SIGURD BACKE, *Norway*

Editor's note: In July 2006 Russians Pavel Fedorov, David Gindiya, Grigory Kochetkov, Maxime Nechitayio, and Denis Savelyev attempted what they thought was Baltica (1,300m, VI 5.10 A3 , Odintsov-Potanikin, 1997) immediately right of Suser gjennom Harryland. However, near the top of the initial steep wall leading to the east pillar they reported being unable to find the continuation and eventually finished on the 1965 Norwegian route. Local climbers observed the Russians actually on the line of Suser gjennom Harryland and not Baltica. However, they were unable to talk with the Russians after the ascent.

The name of the route comes from a line in a song by a Norwegian group called the Dum Dum Boys and approximately translates as "cruising through redneck country."