

Chris Jackson (MO) filed this great report and earned a Skyline Feature for it:

Species: *Koryak snow sheep*

Date Taken: August 6, 2006

Location: *Koryak Mts., Northern Kamchatka, Russia*

Guides: *Vladimir Koshcheev and Alexander Borodulin*

In August 2006, I returned from a hunt for Koryak snow sheep, on which I took a heavily broomed 12-year-old ram on the fifth day. I was accompanied by a super group of seasoned hunters that included Dennis Campbell, Ed Yates, Tom Lavelle, Jim Dovenberg, and Joe Crawley. This hunt was donated by **Profi-Hunt** and auctioned at the 2006 GSCO convention in Tunica.

Shortly before we were to leave for Russia, **Magadan Airlines** discontinued flight service from Anchorage to Kamchatka. We instead flew through Moscow, where we were met by **Vladimir Koshcheev** of Profi-Hunt and **Sergey Ivanov**, a superb professional photographer who was to join us for the duration of the trip. After an overnight stay in Petropavlovsk, we discovered that **Renee Snider (CA)** was also at our hotel, and she too, was scheduled to hunt Koryak sheep. That day we all flew to Ossora and then boarded a helicopter for the journey into the hunting area, where we were divided into three camps. I teamed up with Ed and Dennis. After the long journey, we were all elated to finally be in camp. That elation was quickly tempered by the reality of our environment, as the noise from the helicopter disappearing off in the distance was quickly replaced by the buzzing of thousands of mosquitoes that were glad we had joined them for dinner. The looks on our faces were priceless as we scrambled for Deet® and the assembly instructions to our tents.

The next day, we each headed off with our guides in separate directions. Although we each saw sheep, Dennis was the first to score, taking two nice rams. The next day Ed and I headed out together, along with several guides (and our friends, the mosquitoes). We hiked a few miles up a drainage, but most of the higher elevations were shrouded in fog so we didn't spot any sheep. Ed scored with a beautiful ram late the following day, so that night we enjoyed a fantastic meal and great camaraderie with our Russian



Chris Jackson (MO) took this heavily broomed Koryak snow sheep in Russia in August 2006. Chris was hunting with Profi-Hunt.

hosts.

After being weathered in camp for a day, I headed out across the main valley from camp, along with the head guide, **Alexander Borodulin**, and several others. We had traveled only a mile or so along the base of the mountain range before we spotted two nice rams higher up on a back bowl. Leaving the other guides below as spotters,

Alexander and I headed up and around the back of the bowl. Along the way, we were amazed at the amount of sheep beds and fresh tracks that we were seeing. After a couple of hours of climbing, we were high enough that we could see into the bowl where the sheep had been bedded. They were now feeding so we worked our way down the back of the bowl until we peaked over the ridgeline 70 yards above the broomed ram. After the shot, the ram tumbled several hundred yards down the mountain. Sergey and the guides soon joined us from below and they literally took hundreds of photographs.

Over the next couple of days, we waited until everyone had taken a sheep before we were able to get a helicopter into our camps and fly out early. We stayed two nights in Ossora before Vladimir was miraculously able to get all of us

on board a flight into Petropavlovsk, where we again spent the night before flying back to Moscow.

While the mountains in the areas that I hunted weren't terribly high or steep, the rocks and crevasses made it difficult to spot sheep. Most of our scouting was done from the valley floors at elevations around 2,500 feet, and my highest climb was just over 2,000 feet.

Hopefully, flight service from Anchorage will resume soon, which will make the logistics of this hunt much simpler. Fortunately, the other hunters were patient, experienced, and a great joy to spend time with.

My special thanks go to Vladimir and his staff, as they were tremendous hosts during our entire stay. They took care of every detail during the trip, and went out of their way to provide for us, especially during the many days of travel. On the last evening in Moscow, we were able to reminisce about the many details of our hunt over a memorable dinner that was graciously hosted by Vladimir Melnikov, the owner of Profi-Hunt.