

We mentioned in the Fall 2010 issue that **Corky Ullom** (GA) only needed one more animal to reach a Capra World Slam as well as the Triple Slam. Corky did just that this past November, when he took a Kuban (Western) tur. We'll let Corky take it from here:

On November 5, 2010, at approximately 2 p.m. Caucasus Mountain time, I completed my Triple Slam. It all started back at the last GSCO convention. I decided to bid on the Kuban (Western) tur hunt donated by **ProfiHunt**. I had hunted with them in August 2009 and was successful in taking a fine mid-Caucasian tur. I was successful as the high bidder, and on November 1, 2010 I found myself on a flight to Moscow. As I made my way across the Atlantic, I thought back to my good fortune of being the first winner of the 3/4 Slam drawing. It was the last hunt I would take with my father before he passed away; truly, that hunt provided great memories that will remain vivid in my mind until I take my last breath. I had no idea that it would signal the beginning of a long journey around the world hunting sheep and goats in the far corners of many countries. That hunt, and the Grand Slam, made up the first leg of my Triple Slam.

My guide for the hunt was the ever-reliable **Alexey Maximov**. He is a fine young man who is probably the most knowledgeable professional hunter around when it comes to tur hunting. He was with me on my fantastic mid-Caucasian tur hunt and I would probably not have booked this Kuban tur hunt if he had not been available. This hunt would finish my Triple Slam with what I affectionately call the "Caucasus Mountain Grand Slam," which is made up of the Dagestan tur, mid-Caucasian tur, Kuban tur, and Caucasian chamois. Quite honestly, I believe it is the most difficult Slam to complete. It is truly a hunter's hunt because 1) You must be in good physical shape to climb the steep Caucasus Mountains to altitudes that can exceed 12,000 feet; 2) You must be able to shoot accurately out to long distances; and 3) You must have control of your nerves to successfully navigate sometimes difficult terrain. This is probably why fewer than 20 hunters have ever completed this Slam. I was bound and determined to be one of those few to accomplish this task.

Upon my arrival in Moscow late morning of November 2, I was met by the ever-smiling Alexey. After processing my firearms, visa and various paperwork, we changed airports and caught a commuter jet flight to Mineral'nyye Vody, a favorite vacation spot in the south of Russia known for its spas and mineral baths. After the 2 1/2-hour flight we met our local government guide, **Ivan Yufkin**, who transported us in his trusty Russian jeep to the town of Cherkessk, in the province of Karachayevo-Cherkesiya. Suffering from jet lag, we had a good meal in a local restaurant and retired for the evening. On November 3 we arose quite early and continued our travels for another two hours by jeep to our base camp, where I met our local guide **Aliy Kochkarov**, and our cook **Vladimir Schevchuk**. The base camp was a standard concrete building with cots and a stove for cooking and heating. After handshakes and introductions all around, we repacked our gear, leaving unnecessary items behind, and pack them on four fine horses for our 2 1/2-hour trip into a specific canyon that had seen

only one hunter in three years.

As we mounted our horses, I could not help but smile about our two guides Aliy and Ivan. As usual, they were slim, long-legged mountain men who could race up a mountain like a tur. Both of them were hardened by their life in the mountains. It was a great team I felt was going to give me a distinct advantage when hunting these magnificent animals.

November 4 found us scouting the mountain range from our spike camp all the way out to the glacier that ominously hovered over the canyon at its very end. The goal was to pattern the movements of six turs we had spotted through my Swarovski spotting scope. After six hours of glassing and moving back and forth up and down the canyon, we were confident the turs bedded down in mid-afternoon on a sheer cliff covered in heavy snow. They stayed there all night and around mid-morning would work their way over the ridgeline to a large bowl where the females could congregate. They would then battle each other for the favor of the females and spend the next 4-5 hours mating. Finally, around 2-3 p.m. they would retire to the same cliffs they had left earlier that morning.

The next morning, as we made our way up the mountain through a large pine timber, Alexey asked if I could make a 500-yard shot. After a few seconds reflecting on my shooting range, I said yes. Alexey went on to explain that though I should have a clear shot at one of the big turs, I would be shooting across a canyon.

As we exited the timber we worked our way up the backside of the adjoining mountain through steep terrain and boulders. My lungs were burning, and the slippery snow made going tough in spots. Finally after about three hours we found ourselves nestled into a tremendous vantage point for shooting at an elevation of between 10-11,000 feet.

Like clockwork at about 2:30 p.m., four of the six turs came over the top of the mountain to my left. The biggest one was standing in the snow facing to the right. I ranged him at an even 630 yards! I've never taken a shot on an animal that far, but I knew I had no choice but to let one fly. I handed my Leica bino/range finder to Alexey so he could call out the distance if the big guy did not go down. I set the third bar of my Swarovski scope just below the big tur's spine and squeezed the trigger. The 300 Ultra Mag roared and soon after I heard the distinctive whack of a hit. It was over, and my Triple Slam was complete!

My ram was a 300-lb. brute that we put at 11 1/2 years old. His horns were long and heavy, and his coat was thick and dark, a beautiful ram who ruled these mountains. This will go down as one of the toughest and most memorable hunts of my life.

Congratulations, Corky, for this tremendous accomplishment.



Corky Ullom (GA) with his Kuban (Western) tur from November 2010. This tur completed Corky's Triple Slam and Capra World Slam.