

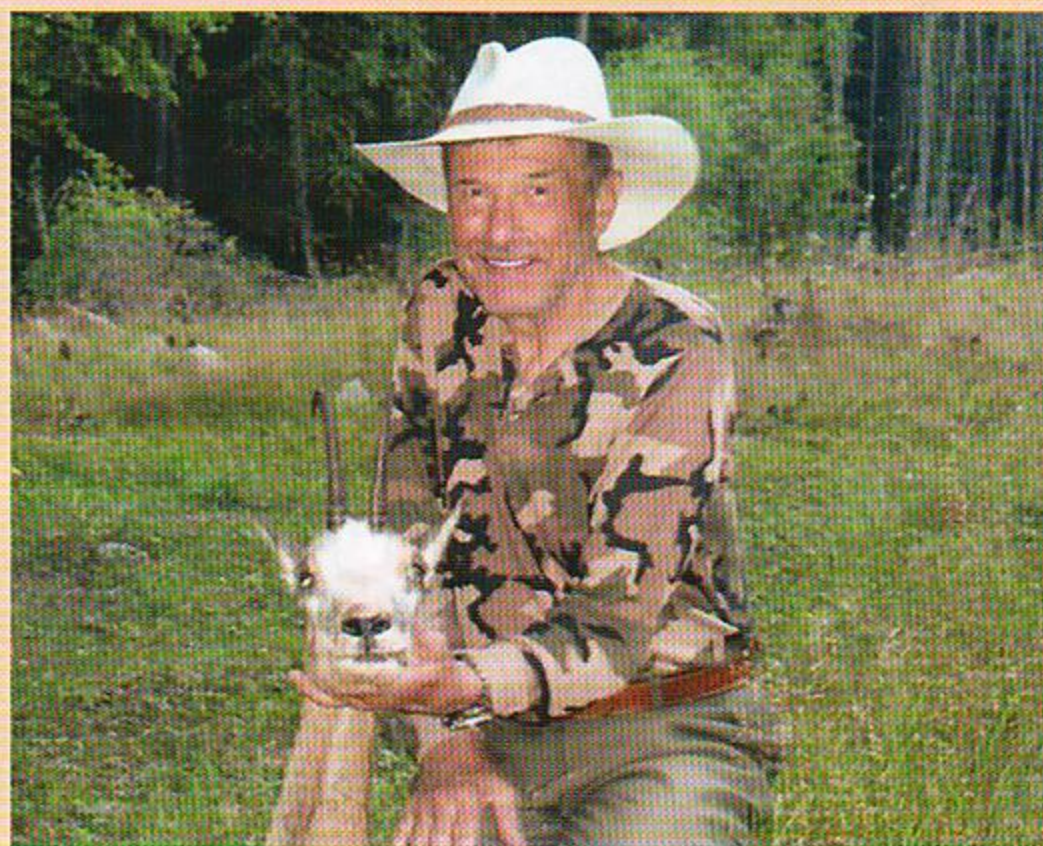
We now hear from **Gary Rigotti (OR)**:

**Larry Higgins (MI)** and I hunted in Russia. We left the U.S. on July 28 and returned home September 5 (a long time!). We hunted the Mid-Caucasian and Kuban (Western) tur. I also hunted the Caucasian chamois. **Dave Myrup (UT)** came over for the last leg and we all hunted Koryak snow sheep.

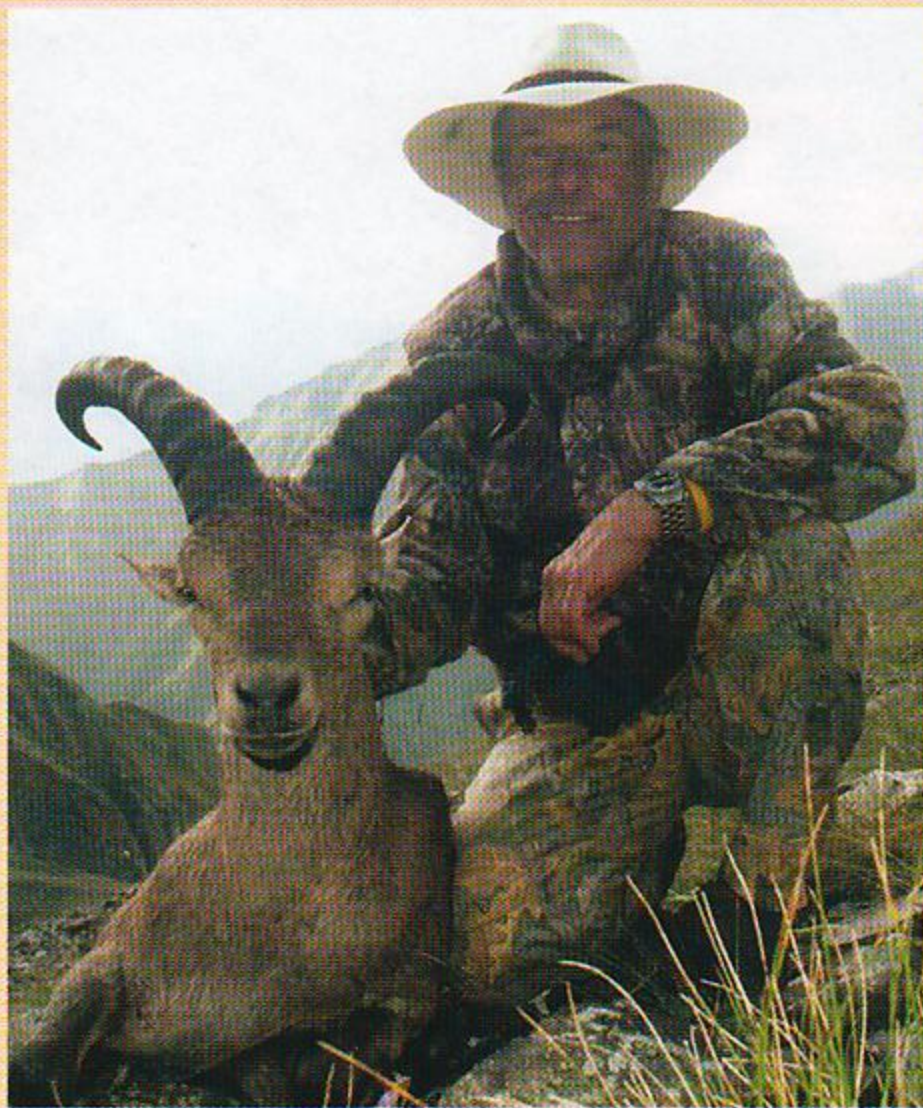
I'll try to make this short, but a lot of interesting situations happened on this trip. First, my hunting clothes and gun never showed up in Moscow. I waited a day and still no rifle, so we left and hunted the Kuban tur and chamois anyway. I used a bolt action Russian 30-06 rifle with 4-power Russian scope. They told me it was 5" high at 100 yards. They were right on. Okay, this is cool. I felt confident. I shot my chamois, but never had a shot at the Kuban tur.

Next area we hunted was for the Mid-Caucasian tur. Another Russian rifle, this one with a Swarovski scope. Oh, COOL, I'm in hog heaven!! WRONG, WRONG, WRONG. When they gave me the box of 20 shells, they were all different brands and shapes. I fired it but had no idea where it was hitting. It's pretty hard to sight in a rifle at rocks when you have so few bullets, all different shapes. To be very honest, I would have been more confident with **Tom Hoffman's (NY)** bow.

Anyway, we climbed the mountain for four days. I had a shot at a very big tur (314 yards). I think I hit the side of the mountain. If I had my own rifle, it would have been over. After the first shot, it was WWII on the mountain. I WAS DONE. Then I thought that after Larry shot his tur, I could use his rifle. Larry did take a nice tur and we still had two days left, so I went where he hunted. I also had Vladimir for an interpreter, whom I didn't have on the first part of the hunt. The next two days it rained and was foggy, but Vladimir said we could leave here by noon and we would be all right to go back to Moscow. If the weather cleared, we would climb the mountain at 3 a.m. and get into position. The weather cleared a half hour after daylight. There was a tur feeding at 365 yards. I told Vladimir when he got out to 400 yards, tell me and I would shoot. Vladimir and the guides just shook their heads in disbelief, they thought I was crazy. (Larry's rifle had a 400-yard reticle scope.) The shot was true and I had my Mid-Caucasian tur. Not big, but well earned. I was a very happy hunter. My thanks go out to Vladimir; without him I wouldn't have shot my tur.



This Caucasian chamois was taken by Gary Rigotti (OR) in Russia during August 2007.



Gary Rigotti (OR) completed his Ovis World Slam Super 30 and Capra World Slam Super 20 with this Mid-Caucasian tur in August 2007.