



George Kraft (AL, left) and guide/interpreter Vladimir Koscheev (right) of Profi-Hunt with George's Marco Polo ram taken November 2005 in Kyrgyzstan. This sheep completed George's Ovis World Slam.

Now we go to George's Slam hunt:

*It was an easy flight for **Dennis Campbell** (AL) and me from Atlanta to Moscow. A 13-hour layover in Moscow was a little tough before we flew on to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. An unexpected phenomenon happened in Bishkek: we were ushered into a lounge, served tea, and before we knew it we were on our way to camp without the usual customs delays. Eight hours later, we were in camp, about 10 miles from the Chinese border, in the Tian Shan Mts. When I say we, I mean Dennis and our two interpreters, **Vladimir Koscheev & Alexey Maximov** of Profi-Hunt.*

Camp – what a surprise! A horseshoe shape of metal buildings, with the dining area at the bottom of the horseshoe. One side of the horseshoe was a 10 x 50 building which consisted of two bedrooms, one on each end, and in the middle a wash area with, yes, hot water. Next to our hunter building was a sauna – another surprise. Yet another surprise was the generated lights in camp. Temperatures in mid-November were cold, as low as minus 10°F and occasional snow. It would warm up during

the day, but only to 20° to 30°F, and when the wind blew in the mornings, it was VERY cold.

Dennis and I both came prepared to shoot 400+ yards, and we each had to do so – at 450 and 480 yards respectively. We each took classic sheep. Dennis got one with the Tian Shan look, and my ram has the classic Marco Polo look, which is what I wanted. This ram completed my Ovis World Slam exactly as I had envisioned it in my dreams.

Tidbits from George: Vegetation is grass, 6 to 8" high, and no trees or shrubs. Altitude at base camp was at 11,000 and we hunted as high as 13,800.

All of the above was written on the flight back to Alabama. Dennis developed a problem with his left knee two months prior to our hunt, so he was far from 100%. A few days after our success on sheep, his left knee locked up on a slope and we both knew it was serious. I talked to Dennis after his MRI in Birmingham and it does not sound good, but he is planning surgery for next week. We all hope that surgery goes well and recovery is swift, because there is a convention on February 9-12 and more sheep to hunt in March. With the knee as an exception, the hunt was outstanding, and I can only say good things about Profi-Hunt, our interpreters and guides.