

Now we come to my friend **Giancarlo Boienti** (Italy). Giancarlo and I met on a Yakutia snow sheep hunt in 1999, and we have stayed in touch since then. We are booked for Nepal together in October/November 2001. I am looking forward to it, Giancarlo! Now, to Giancarlo's report:

While I looked at the photos in the magazines and at the conventions, I thought the Karaganda should be probably the best argali in appearance, color of body, and facial expression, so I chose it as my first argali hunt.

*Kazakh people are very friendly and my head guide **Oscar** was perfect. I got my ram after six days, but I lost two days because of a snow storm. As on my other sheep hunts, my guides spotted more sheep than I did, but I usually spot my ram.*

In the middle of the sixth day, while the others in my group were looking at a group of 5 to 6 sheep moving up a hill, I turned my binoculars to the bottom of the hill. At 300 meters, a ram was standing & looking at us. As I showed the ram to my guide, it started to walk away. After an hour of searching, Oscar saw the ram lie down in the middle of a mountain; because of the open terrain, it was going to be impossible to stalk the argali. Oscar, Vladimir and I climbed two ridges on the left of the sheep and stopped at the same level; the other guide climbed the right side and went towards the ram. The plan was perfect: the argali stood up and walked toward me. I saw it 500 meters, and put the cross of the scope on his body at 300 meters, but I couldn't shoot because he always showed only the front of the body. I didn't believe my eyes, and finally shot at 100 meters.

Back in Almaty, I knew my first plane to go home was after two days, so I spent that time hunting in a mountain area bordering Kyrgyzstan; I was searching for Siberian roe deer. Riding up to a mountain, I heard several roe deer, but we did not see any because of the foggy weather. We set up the tent at over 3000 meters. The next morning we saw a group of Maral with no interesting bucks, and finally I harvested a good 49" ibex: it was the best of the season hunted in that area.

*Thanks to **Vladimir Melnikov**, the owner of the Russian outfit **Profi-Hunt**.*



Giancarlo Boienti (Italy, left) and Vladimir Melnikov (Russia, right) of Profi-Hunt, with Giancarlo's Karaganda argali taken in Kazakhstan, November 2000.