



Mike Borel (CA) took this Kuban (Western) tur from Russia in October 2009. Mike was hunting with ProfiHunt.

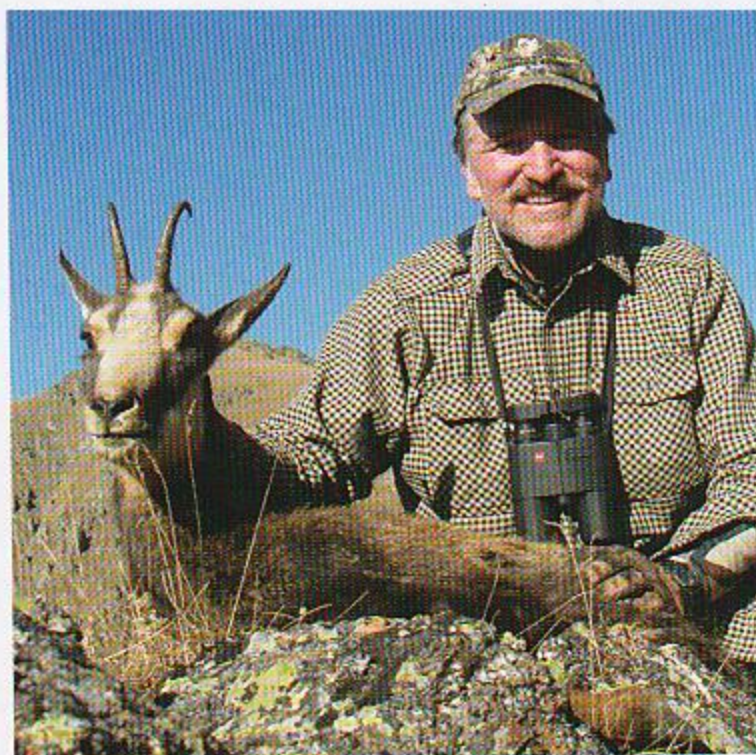
Life member **Mike Borel** (CA) decided to tackle the Caucasus Mountains again and this time he was able to score with both a Kuban (Western) tur and Caucasian chamois. Mike sent us this report and photos by email:

*What a trip! Tur are tough, as everyone who hunts the Caucasus knows. Turns out for me, the chamois were even tougher this time of year. Nevertheless, the old adage that "persistence alone is omnipotent" proved true once again.*

*The hunt started at the 2009 GSCO convention auction when I purchased the donation from **ProfiHunt**. My interpreter was **Alexey Maximov** and my main local guide was Ali. We set up a base camp in the buffer zone near the border with Georgia and used horses to get to fly camp. We wasted no time in climbing to the summits in search of the Kuban (Western) tur.*

*On day two we spotted two, with one very good ram bedded down on a point of a high ridge. Okay, but how to get to them? They were over 1000 yards away and there was no approach that would enable us to stay undetected. We waited until eventually they got up and started moving. At nearly the same time five tur appeared below us, 600 yards out and coming our way. **John Gulius** was also hunting and at the time we were all togeth-*

*er. Based on our position, it made sense for John to follow the first two on the left and higher and me to follow the six on the right that were lower. The two on the high ridge appeared and disappeared as they worked their way to what was 500 yards. John had a long, but reasonable shot from a solid rest. The ram went out of sight, so we didn't know the actual result. At that, the six below took off and didn't allow a shot. Ivan, our second guide, grabbed me and indicated to follow him (at a run) down and then up over the high ridge where the other tur must still be. It was steep, but we made it in good time. Once over, where it was just as steep downhill, we moved progressively along the side*



Mike Borel (CA) and his very hard-won Caucasian chamois taken in Russia in October 2009. This chamois was taken with ProfiHunt.

*until four ridges later we got a glimpse of the big ram almost at the top. I shot and saw him go down and out of sight. High fives! When we got to the spot, however, he had obviously recovered his feet and bailed off the mountain on the other side (damn goats, why do they do that?!). He was dead on the slide/roll and Alexey and John saw him fall 500-600 yards down the mountain. It was full dark before we got to him, but he is magnificent, 16 years old and 31".*

*We had tur for breakfast, lunch (cold in a jar) and dinner for the next six days while we tried to also come up with a chamois. We didn't see many, believing this time of year that most were staying in the trees; but we did a LOT of climbing, side hilling and descending. We moved camp after two days and eventually I got my Caucasian chamois after a very long stalk.*