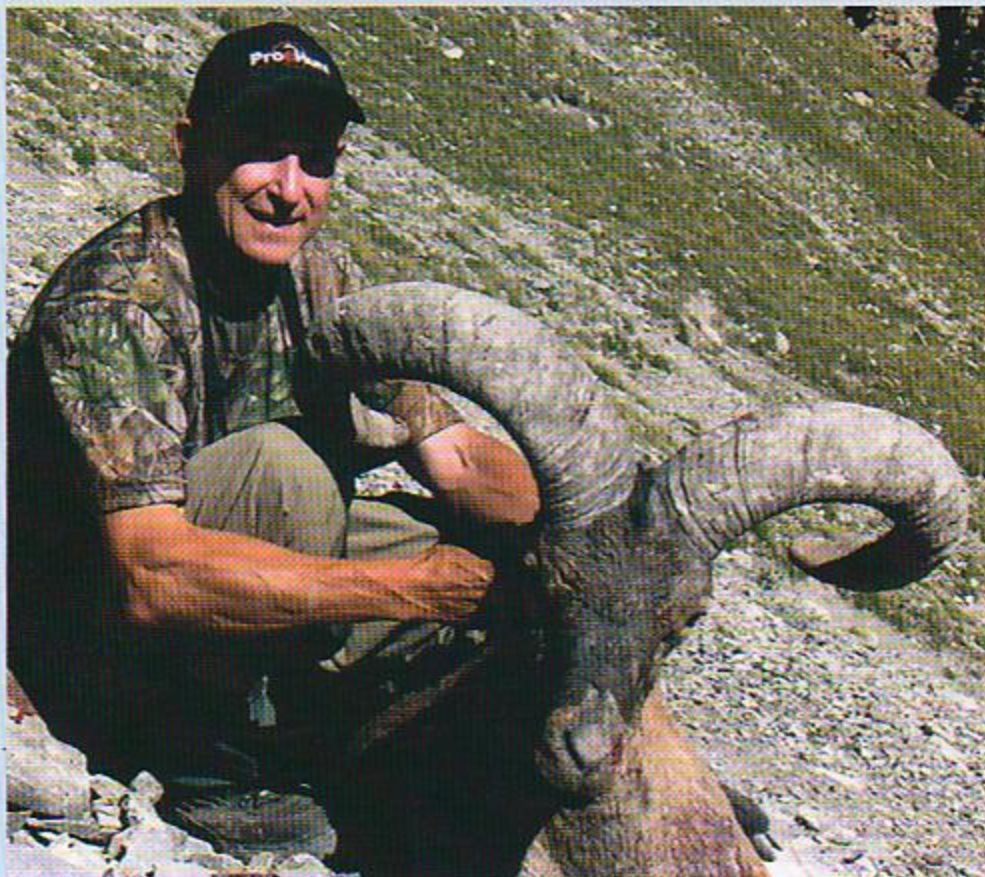


**Dean Heintzelman (PA)** hunted in the Caucasus Mts. in August 2006 and got three different species of turs and a chamois. I could be wrong, but I believe that Dean is the first of our members to hunt in the Caucasus and take all four of these animals on one hunt. (**Gary Parker [NE]** took all three turs, but not the chamois.) Here is what Dean had to say:

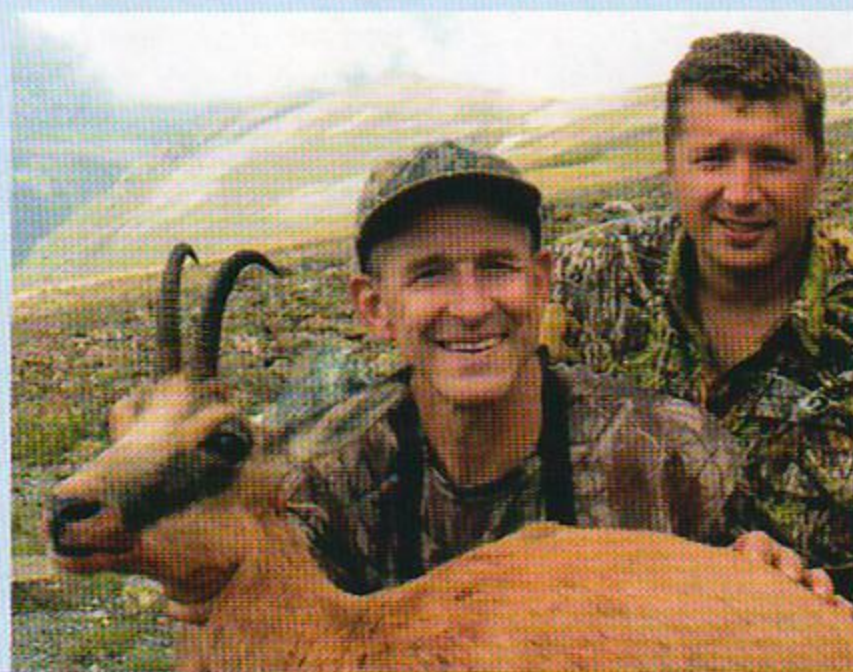
**Dagestan (Eastern) tur:** We departed Baku, Azerbaijan at 6 a.m. on July 31 to travel to base camp. **Marcelo Sodiro** (a tur hunter from Argentina) and I, along with the guides and helpers arrived in base camp at 3:30 p.m. after switching vehicles twice en route. The next morning **Alexey (Profi-Hunt interperter/guide), Vygar** (head guide) and I, along with four local young men left base camp and began hiking into the high country. We were prepared to stay two or three nights on the top of the mountain if necessary. I carried only my rifle and binoculars. As we got higher in the mountains we began seeing some female turs with their young. We continued to climb higher in the steep, rocky mountains. Vygar and I were perhaps 200 yards ahead and higher on the mountain than the other five men when Vygar spotted a herd of male turs. He motioned for me to get down and he peeked over the rocks. He motioned for the other men to stop and wait. He then motioned for me to follow him and we quickly climbed higher and closer to the turs. We both peeked over the rocks and I ranged the turs at 370 yards and it was then that I thought perhaps there were some "shooters" in the herd. We again dropped out of sight and quickly climbed higher. My lungs were working overtime. Vygar took off my pack and placed it over some rocks and motioned for me to shoot; however, I could not see any of the turs. Suddenly the group appeared from behind a rocky ridge, walking at a fast pace in single file, quartering away from us near the top of the mountain. I got them in the scope and the first one in the group appeared to me to be a good-looking tur. I raised one finger to Vygar and he raised three fingers. I quickly began following the third tur in the group and fired. The herd began running and the third tur stumbled and began a 250-yard fall off the



Dean Heintzelman (PA) got this Dagestan (Eastern) tur in Azerbaijan, August 2006.



Dean Heintzelman (PA, left) and guide Aubee (right) with Dean's Kuban (Western) tur from Russia, August 2006.



Dean Heintzelman (PA, left) with guide Alexey Maximov (right) and Dean's Caucasian chamois from Russia, August 2006.

steep mountain. I ranged the distance to the rocks where the tur had been when I shot and the shot was taken at 260 yards. We made our way over to the tur to discover it was a 10 1/2-year-old with 13" bases and 31" and 32" broomed horns.

**Kuban (Western) tur and Caucasian chamois:** On Tuesday morning, August 8, Alexey and I flew to Mineral 'nyye Vody where we were picked up at the airport by **Mudalif** (wildlife manager) and his 16-year-old son **Rezuan**. We traveled northeast to Mudalif's house where we spent the night. The next morning we loaded gear and food into a 4 x 4 military truck for the 4-hour ride into base camp over very rough terrain. At 7 a.m., **Aubee** (head guide), **Badich** (assistant guide), Alexey and I left camp on horse-

back and within 25 minutes Aubee spotted five chamois far below us on the mountain. A stalk and search for the chamois took perhaps 1 1/2 hours and proved to be unsuccessful. We continued to ride the horses toward a high rocky mountain where we were hoping to find a Kuban (Western) tur. We ate lunch at noon, hobbled the horses and began climbing higher on foot. Aubee spotted a young male tur 300 yards below us and we watched it for 20 minutes thinking that more may be in the area. No luck!!! We climbed to the top of the mountain at 10,500 feet and walked the top of the rocky mountain looking off both sides for turs. All four of us stopped on a rocky outcropping to glass and Aubee spotted a chamois below us on the mountain. I quickly got into position to shoot and Alexey gave me the range of 260 yards through the 10 x 42 Leica binoculars. I followed the chamois in the scope until it stopped and then fired. It ran 10 yards and fell. We celebrated and then made our way down to the 7 or 8-year-old chamois. It became very, very foggy on the way back to the horses and I was happy that the guides knew the country well so they were able to find base camp.

The next day we took food for three days and rode to another area to hunt a tur. Alexey and I set up a two-man tent and Aubee and Badich slept in a crude cabin for the night. We rode the horses higher and higher into the mountains. At 9:15 a.m. Aubee spot-



ted a herd of turs two air miles away. We set up the Leica spotting scope and we knew there were males in the herd; however, we could not determine size from that distance. We rode the horses closer and continued to monitor the turs. Because of the warm sun they moved into the rocks. Aubee, Alexey and I began moving forward on foot. We moved cautiously and peeked over rocks looking for them. We had walked and climbed perhaps a mile when Aubee spotted a young male bedded only 110 yards from us. We watched as more turs came into view. Some were female and young and others were young males. Suddenly Alexey saw a tur he thought to be 9 or 10 years old. He told me to get my rifle and prepare to shoot. I quickly lay down and prepared to take the 150-yard shot. More turs were moving and coming into view so I asked Alexey again which one I was to shoot. He looked through the

binoculars and confirmed that it was the one standing on top of a large rock. At the shot the tur tumbled off the back side of the rock when the 150-grain Swift Scirocco from the 7mm STW hit him high in the shoulder. The mountain seemed to come alive with running turs moving away from the area. It is amazing how quickly they move over those mountains. We climbed higher and made our way over to the tur. Alas, the animal was only 7 1/2 years old; however, it is a worthy trophy because of the rugged country in which they live and the effort required in getting there.

**Mid-Caucasian tur:** On Monday, August 14, Mudalif, his wife, Alexey and I departed for the Nal'chik area. We drove for four hours and waited to be picked up by the people from the area. We stayed in a very nice lodge near Nal'chik for the night. **Nick Ravinsky** (Profi-Hunt interpreter/guide) arrived by taxi from Mineral'nyye Vody at 11:55 p.m. Nick was to hunt with me in the Mid-Caucasian tur area. We left at 6 a.m. and drove for two hours, then loaded all gear and food into a large 4 x 4 military truck for the final trip into base camp. After going only a mile we found that the roadway had been washed out by the high swift water from the melting snow high in the mountains. We unloaded all the gear and food and carried it up along a stream bank and over a log foot bridge. There were six of us to carry all the gear another 1/4 mile up the old mountain road. It was then decided that Toma (head guide), Nick and I would load our packs with food and gear to hunt for three days and walk the three miles to base camp. My 75-pound pack seemed to get heavier as we climbed higher. We stopped to talk to some local men working on hay, and then Nick and I continued on to the base camp arriving within two hours. Toma and Michel (local guide) arrived shortly after the rain had stopped.

Michel, Nick and I left base camp at 2 a.m. Nick and I used head lights for the first 25 minutes and then Michel asked us to turn them off. We climbed up the steep mountains in the dark and waited for it to become daylight. Michel spotted a male tur on the top of the mountain. We dropped out of sight and climbed higher. We then ranged it at 450 yards. We again dropped out of sight and climbed higher. We peeked over the rocks and ranged it again and now we were within 350 yards. Michel wanted me to shoot quickly; however, I noticed some rocks 10 yards in front



Dean Heintzelman (PA) took this Mid-Caucasian tur in Russia in August 2006 to complete the "Caucasus Quadruple Slam."

of us closer to the tur and it looked like the bullet might hit a rock, so I motioned for Michel to place my pack on the rocks closer to the tur. We crawled forward and Michel placed my pack on the rocks. I quickly placed the rifle over the pack, settled the cross hairs on the rib cage of the tur standing on the top of the mountain 340 yards away, and fired.

I thought I heard the bullet hit the tur and Nick was watching in his 10 power binoculars and he also thought the tur was hit; however, the tur was out of sight immediately. We crossed the rocky steep slope as we climbed higher to reach the area where the tur had been standing when the shot was taken. Michel arrived first and saw the male tur run off the back side of the mountain. He found blood and then noticed the mortally wounded tur lying 180 yards away. It stumbled to its feet as Nick and I came out

on top so I shot two more times, hitting it in the hindquarters, and it slid to a stop. We made our way down over the rocks and found an 11 or 12-year-old mature male with 13" bases and horns of 28 1/2" and 29 1/2". All three of us were very happy hunters. This tur was shot off the top of the mountain at 10,500 feet. The 4-hour climb of 3,400 vertical feet in the dark was very, very challenging for my 60-year-old legs; however, it also accomplished the goal of taking a mature Mid-Caucasian tur. The climb coming down these steep, steep mountains with a pack and rifle can be scary at times. These mountains are some of the steepest I have encountered in my years of hunting.

**CONCLUSION:** The three turs and a chamois were taken in 16 days. We were blessed with good weather and excellent guides. This truly was a memorable experience because of the majestic mountains, people met, disappointment and accomplishments. The time spent hunting in Azerbaijan and Russia in the Caucasus Mts. shall forever be cherished memories for me.

Profi-Hunt is well connected with these local hunting organizations and they had everything arranged very well. The Profi-Hunt guides/interpreters (Alexey M. and Nick R.) were very helpful to me in every way. From my experience during this adventure it is my opinion that the three elements most important for the hunter to be successful hunting turs in the Caucasus Mountains are 1. Physical condition; 2. Positive/determined mental attitude; 3. Shooting ability.

Great hunt report and congratulations on such a successful hunt! I know we talked before this hunt about the very three elements you mentioned above, Dean. I was so pleased to hear that you had been so super successful. I actually heard about the first three trophies while I was in Russia myself back in August. I had my fingers crossed for you on the Mid-Caucasian tur hunt. You certainly got some fine trophies. I would like to add a fourth element to your formula for Caucasus success: LUCK! It sounds like that fine lady (Luck, you know) was with you on the weather, logistics and more. Of course, the fact that you had several people along with vast experience helped too. Once again, congratulations, and I am so happy for you. I have come up with a name for your four-animal hunt, Dean – the Caucasus Quadruple Slam!