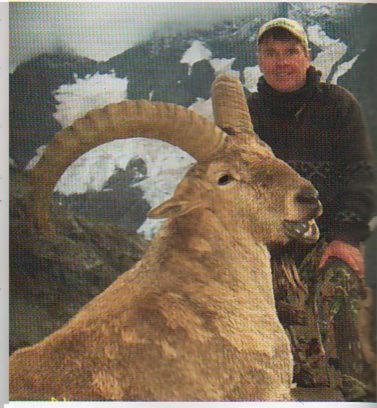
Mark Megazzi (CA) filed this report:

I recently returned from Russia on a mid-Caucasian and Kuban (Western) tur hunt. I was pleasantly surprised to meet fellow GSCO members in Moscow and share part of the hunt with Chris Jackson and Jim Kelley. I would be hunting the two weeks with Jim Dovenberg. It is a nice plus to make new friends and share your adventures with them.

On September 5, 2009 we all flew from Moscow to Mineralnyye-Vody and drove a couple of hours to

Malachi and overnighted in a very comfortable lodge. Next morning, after a three-hour drive we were checking in with local authorities, then Jim Dovenberg and I contined to our hunting area. The guides utilized an old cabin to sleep, while we elected for a tent.

Next morning, with headlamps and full moon, the walking started around 4 a.m. and reached the tur area by daylight. I had great opportunities the first two days, but unfortunately fell and bumped my scope the first morning. I got it sighted back in the second afternoon, but a very disgruntled guide meant changing locations and guides. With time lost and a new area with no tur, we left for the Kuban area a couple of days later. Jim did connect on a very nice mid-Caucasian tur his second day.



Mark Megazzi (CA) took this Kuban (Western) tur from Russia in 2009. Mark was hunting with ProfiHunt.

We drove to Karachaevsk for the night. A five-hour drive put us into a comfortable base camp. With a cook and nice cabin, the conditions were much better. Jim horsebacked to a spike camp while guide Ivan and I four-wheeled to an old abandoned mine and started our walk. That afternoon, after a very cold rain we were able to get into position with help from Jim's guide, Ali. A 14-year-old ram at 225 yards was a welcome sight. With just enough daylight for pictures and caping, it made for a long but successful day.