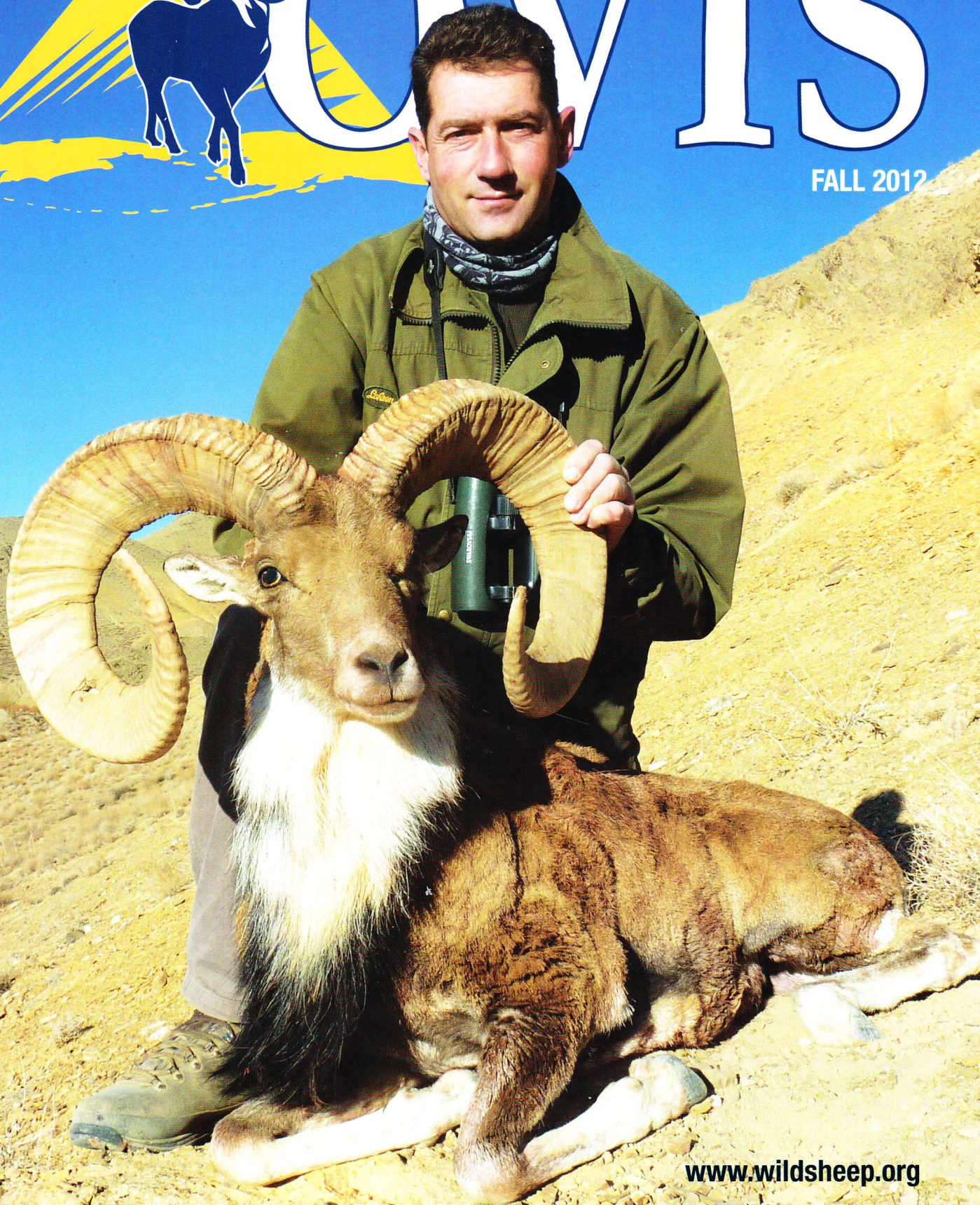


THE OFFICIAL ARCHIVE FOR INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN HUNTING



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I was staying. I only had the time to order one good beer when suddenly José, his brother Dionisio and wife Estrella arrived. They are the owners of the hotel. They understood that I'm a hunter and because of the fact they are fond of hunting, they started asking about my adventures and showed me their trophies. They talked about their mountains, their way of life and their opinion about hunting. They decided that we should absolutely have dinner together. For me it was really okay to go on talking and listening about hunting. During dinner, the guide Goyo joined us. He would take me to the Pyrenean Mountains! Goyo and Juan reminded me that the next morning we should get up at 4 a.m. I looked at my watch and decided, against my will, to go to sleep.

The alarm clock of my mobile phone rang... it was time to go hunting. Thirty minutes later I was already on the march. It would be a long walk, but we had to arrive at the crest. After two hours we were walking on the white snow without any tracks; it was really a wonderful sight. At 8 a.m. I was on the peak; in the distance we saw some chamois. I took out my Spective spotting scope, binoculars

Ruben Velatta (Italy) hunted Pyrenean chamois in Spain with **Fernando Saiz** in November 2011. Ruben had a great hunt and filed this report:

*Benasque, Spain, Ciria Hotel: Has it ever happened to you to enter an unknown place and in less than one second you feel at home? Well, to me, YES! As usual, I arrived in Madrid and met **Juan Mitjans**, who is now my friend. After a five-hour drive on major motorways, but above all the twisting roads in the Pyrenees, I finally arrived in Benasque.*

Even though it was the off-season, the small village is full of passionate mountain climbers and villagers and all pubs, shops and restaurants are open... in short, a lively village. I went to the hotel and arranged all my things (rifle and rucksack) and then got to the bar of the small hotel where

and rangefinder from my rucksack and started watching. The chamois were very far away and I didn't succeed in distinguishing them, so I waited.

After about an hour they came up closer to me. Among them I saw a fantastic male, surely a medallion. My rangefinder had him at 350 meters, angle of fire 45°, a quick calculation... I had to shoot as if I were at 245. I saw in Juan's eyes some worry, but then he relaxed; he knew me very well now. If I decided to shoot, it was because I was sure it would be a good shot. I framed the animal, he was looking up in my direction, he seemed to sense the danger, but he was not in a good position yet, so I waited. We were squatting down in a very bad place, sheer sharp rocks in which Goyo slipped and made some noise. So the chamois moved further and in a second he was in a perfect position for my shot. The animal rolled down the slope. I was worthy of a good cigarette; after that, we went down. While I was approaching the chamois I saw he was a really big trophy, but when I was near him... wow, a Gold Medallion!

I used a Blaser R93 300 REM Ultra Mag. Rifle with Swarovski scope Z61 3-30 x 50 BT, loaded with the cartridge Remington power level III, swift Scirocco 180 grains.

Ruben is the founder and president of GSCO-European Chapter. He has done a great job, and the chapter is growing every month. Check out their web site, www.gSCO-ec.eu.



Ruben Velatta (Italy) took this fantastic Pyrenean chamois from Spain in November 2011. Ruben was hunting with Juan Mitjans of Fernando Saiz – Spain.