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SKYLINE FEATURE

Rusty Schultz (AL) was the subject of a Capra World Slam Milestone Feature in the Winter 2013 issue of *OVIS*. At that time, he had not sent a complete report on his Spain hunt... but now he has, and it goes like this:

*For some time I have had the desire to hunt the varied game of Spain, but found the pricing structures somewhat confusing at best. With the many add-ons, it seems I would need to carry a calculator on the hunt. During my review of references from others who had experience hunting in Spain, I came across an outfitter who offered all-inclusive pricing that seemed much more straightforward and clear to me. So, it was much welcomed that I booked with **Antonio Teruel** of **Iberhunting**. This company is little known among those of us from the United States, but very well known in Europe. Antonio and his wonderful wife Mercedes operate in a very personal manner that I like. Their attention to detail before and after the hunt, communication and being just plain good people make them a pure joy to deal with.*

On November 4, 2012, I left my home in Alabama headed for Barcelona, Spain for the much awaited adventure that I had booked some 10 months earlier. With Hurricane Sandy shaking things up in New York. I thought that it might have to be postponed, as my journey took me first through JFK Airport. But, due to the resilience of the people in the area, JFK was up and running with all the life and vigor that is normally seen without so much as a hint of disaster, except for some of the devastating damage seen from the air.

*Arriving in Barcelona, I gathered my bags (always a relief to see coming down the belt). I met Antonio and he quickly cleared my firearm with the local police. We headed to the area of la S'enia and I was ready for a much needed rest. After a brief nap we met up with the local guide in the area, **Cristian Abella**, for hunting Beceite ibex. Since the hunt would not start until the next day we went out to test my Borden rifle after the long journey and it was on the mark. Cristian then suggested we do some glassing since we were near the hunting area. He had been seeing some nice ibex and a*



Rusty Schultz (AL, right) took this Beceite ibex during his November 2012 hunt in Spain with Iberhunting. His guide was Cristian Abella (left).

storm front was coming, which might make them move more, and the males were in the rut.

After seeing several large males, Cristian decided it was best to leave the area undisturbed and come back in the morning for the hunt, but not before glassing over one more ridge. Cristian became excited when he spotted a large male that he had seen previously, but not for some time. He had me take a look and without question, this was the one! But daylight was fading fast and it was a sharp downhill angle. I quickly placed the crosshairs on him and squeezed the trigger. At the sound of the rifle, the spectacular Beceite ibex was mine... or I should rightfully say ours. Unfortunately, by the time we made it down to where he was lying it had become dark and we were not able to take any photos until

the next day. So, the photos seen here of the Beceite ibex are from the following morning, but that does not make him any less amazing to me. The coloration of this 14+ year-old was just beautiful and rare; a true trophy and one I shall always cherish.

*After a good night's rest it was the first "official" day of hunting. We headed down the highway to continue my journey and to hunt the Southeastern ibex. Arriving late that evening into the town of Pozo Alc'on, we settled in for the night. The next morning we met up with the local government guide for the area, **José Carlos Soria Miro'm**, whom I just called José. After a quick breakfast and the formality of signing some papers we were off into the hills to locate some ibex. The weather this day was very overcast with wind, fog and rain, not the best for spotting game. Late in the afternoon the weather broke, the sun came out and we started seeing ibex.*

After locating what appeared to be a mature old male we ventured closer for a better look. The ibex put on quite a show for us. Being in the rut, he had a group of eight females and one young male that kept the old guy on guard and quite busy. This presented a problem for us with so many eyes and very little cover to hide our stalk. We did manage to get somewhat closer by traveling through some washouts, but during this time the ibex moved even

(Continued on page 14)



This Southeastern ibex from Spain completed a Capra World Slam for Rusty Schultz (AL, left) in November 2012. José Carlos (right) was his guide.

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further up the hill and away. Trying to locate them again and now spotting the older male, we set up for what would be a very long shot, but it was the only opportunity I would have, as they had us spotted. At the sound of the rifle, all I saw were ibex running across the hills. But, Antonio and José slapped me on the back, congratulating me on the shot. Wow, was I excited! Not only was I able to take this beautiful ibex, but it just sank in that I now had achieved the much coveted Capra World Slam. After many photos, the rain came down with much vigor. Yes, we were soaked packing out the ibex, but we truly did not care.

We started out about midday to another nearby area in an attempt to locate some Iberian mouflon sheep. We spotted some very nice rutting rams, but after a couple of climbs the daylight ended things much too soon that day. Starting out early the next morning, we began seeing rams traveling high up in the hills. After one stalk and a missed shot (it happens to me too), fog closed in on us and we had to retreat early that day.

High into the hills the next day, we spotted several sheep, but nothing that would be a trophy. Broken fog started to uncover the hills as we climbed, showing us more game. Antonio and José spotted a nice ram moving across a ridge with some females. I quickly rested my rifle on a large rock to attempt a shot at the dis-



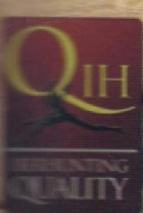
Rusty Schultz (AL, left) took this Iberian mouflon with Iberhunting and outfitter Antonio Teruel (right) in Spain, November 2012.

tant male. At the shot, looking through my rifle scope, I noticed that my bullet hit a piece of rock near where the mouflon ram had been and certainly thought that I had missed again! I told this to Antonio, but he exclaimed, "Yes, but also the mouflon, and he is down!" I must say that I was somewhat dumbfounded, but very happy and excited. You see, I had not originally planned on taking an Iberian mouflon, but with so much early success and not wanting my time in the mountains of Spain to end so early, Antonio gave me the opportunity to try for the sheep since I did not depart for several more days.

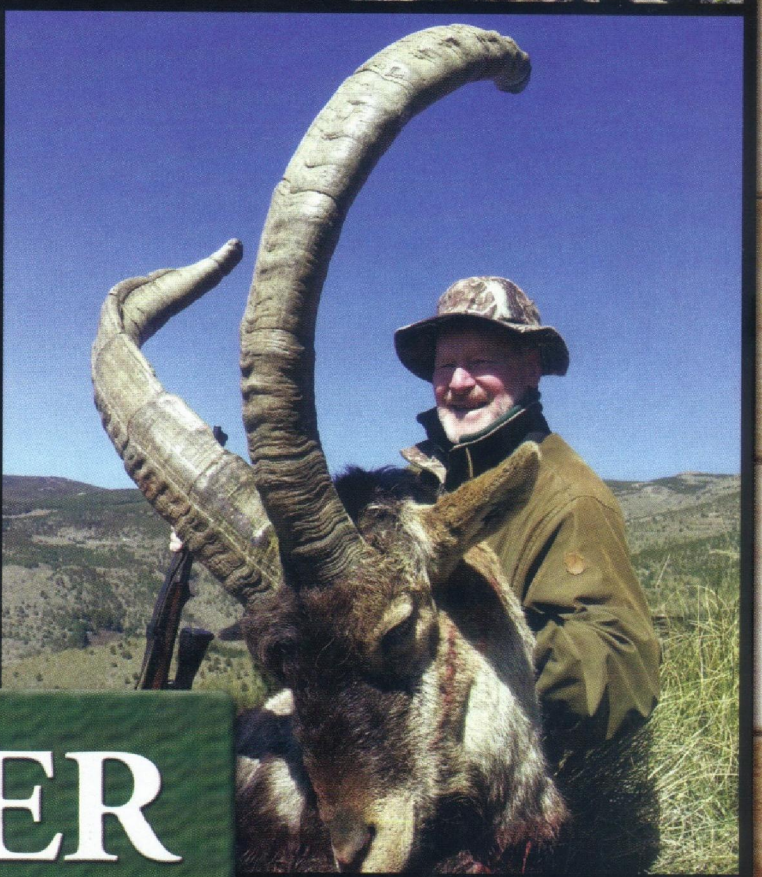
I must say that dealing with Antonio & Mercedes Teruel of Iberhunting and the wonderful people that they work with was one of the most memorable and truly enjoyable hunts of my life. The people of Spain were all very kind

to me. The food and spirits were fabulous! The accommodations were all very clean and comfortable. And, without question, I must find a way to return and hunt the beautiful country of Spain one day. Hey, there are two more varieties of ibex, chamois, and not to forget the goat, red stag, wild boar and fallow deer that I have not hunted there yet!

Great report, Rusty, and congratulations again on your Capra World Slam – and yes, we do know the Ovis World Slam is in your future! You cannot kid us; you had that in mind the minute you got a chance at the mouflon.



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ANTONIO TERUEL

Phone: + 34 664 28 35 12

Fax: + 34 868 18 91 40

Email: iberhunting@iberhunting.com

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www.iberhunting.com

IBER HUNTING SPAIN

Camino de los Chaparros, 14

Diputación de Tiata

30.800 Lorca - Murcia, Spain