

TAKING GREAT FIELD PHOTOS

by Gary Hansen

Note: Gary Hansen's superb photos have been on the cover of both *GRAND SLAM* and *OVIS*. GSCO contacted Gary about his great field photo technique, and he agreed to share his personal opinions with us on our web site. Thanks, Gary!

GSCO: In general, can you tell us about taking hunting photos?

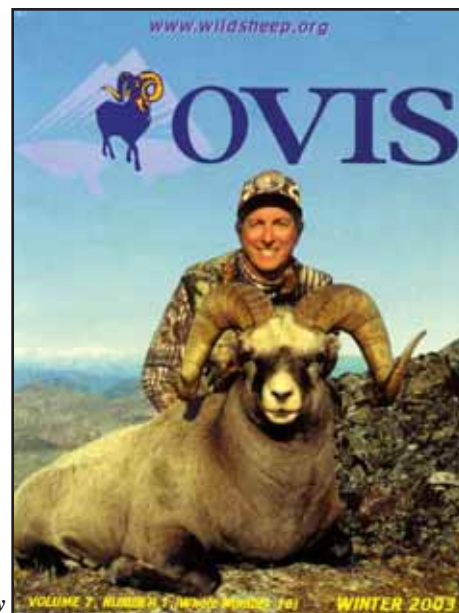
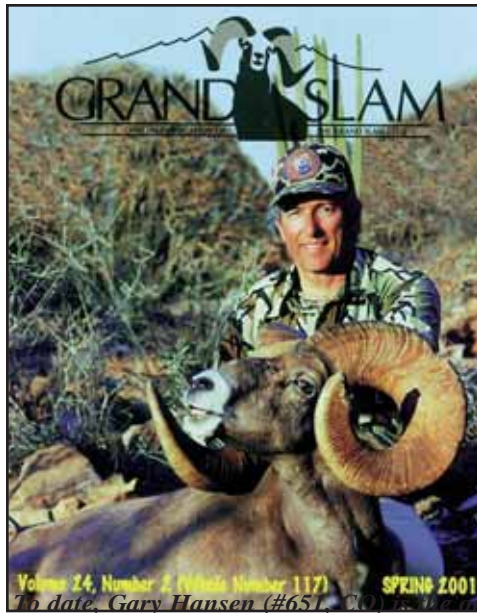
GARY:

Photos mean a lot to me. Other than the mounted animal, the photo is what brings back the memories of the hunt, and I want to make sure I do a good job of capturing the moment. I think that patience is the key to producing a good photo. Some people rush

their photos and consequently the lack of preparation hurts the quality. I take the time necessary to make sure my photo comes out great.

GSCO: What make and model of camera do you use?

GARY: I use a Canon Sure Shot A-1 waterproof camera. This is a non-zoom 35mm camera. Sheep hunting often takes place in wet conditions and I don't want to



both *GRAND SLAM* and *OVIS*.

worry about my camera being damaged from moisture.

GSCO: What brand and speed of film do you use?

GARY: I use Fuji 200 speed film. I think that Fuji is more brilliant and gives me that extra edge in producing a quality photo.

GSCO: How do you prepare the animal for the photo?

GARY: First, I make sure there is absolutely no blood on the animal. I am very serious about this and take the time necessary to make sure all blood is removed. I use water and a handkerchief to rinse and wipe all the blood off the cape. To make this job easier, I am careful not to touch the animal until I am ready to take the photograph. If you roll the animal around a lot, you will just get more blood on the cape. Also, blood tends to come up through the nose and mouth, which compounds the problem. Also, as suggested by GSCO, I use fishing line to tie the mouth shut. This keeps the animal's mouth closed and produces a more appealing, natural pose. Overall, my goal on the pose is to make the animal look as if he is bedded down, in a relaxed position.

GSCO: Does your guide always take the photo or do you use a self-timer?

GARY: I rely on my guide to take my pictures 90% of the time. I carefully explain how my camera works and make sure he understands the difference between the overall viewfinder and the photo frame markings printed on the viewfinder. All cameras are different and the last thing I

want is to have a photo with part of me or the animal accidentally cropped off. On international hunts, sometimes my guide does not speak English. In this case, I take extra time to explain the camera operation. There are a few times when I will set the camera on a tripod or rocks and take the picture with a self-timer. However, this is fairly unusual.

GSCO: How many photos do you take?



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GARY: I take about 20 to 25 photos of the animal. When I get my pictures developed, I usually keep only two and then throw the rest away. Some hunters like to keep all their photos, but my preference is just keep the two that are the best and most memorable to me.

GSCO: Do you have any closing thoughts?

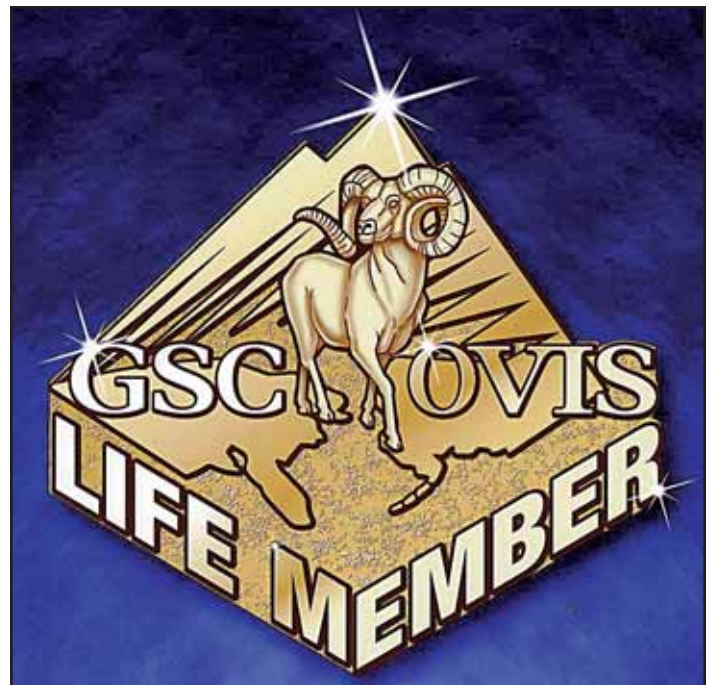
GARY: I think that patience and preparation really differentiate great photos from good ones. If you take your time and set the photo up properly, you have a much better chance of taking a great photo.

This e-mail came from my friend **Brenton Scott** (CO):

I don't ever recall seeing what I assume are the new GSCO Life Membership pins in the magazine. I saw a Life Membership pin in your display case in the GSCO office that looked like the belt buckles that are now offered to Grand Slammers. So my questions are:

1. Is there a new life membership pin?
2. If the answer to 1 is yes, why hasn't it been shown in the magazine(s)? The one I saw looked great and we should use it as bait to attract more lifers.
3. If the answer to 1 is yes, what do "old timers" that were both GSC and Ovis lifers need to do to get one of the new ones?

I really liked the display with your various badges and pins in it. I'm now looking for something that



Above is the artist's rendering of our new Life Member pin. The actual pin is 1" tall, and a bit brighter gold than this artwork. It is truly 3-dimensional, raised and polished. For those who are already Life Members, you can get one of these new pins for a tax deductible donation of \$100 or more.