

SUPER 25 MILESTONE

ALEXEY KIM



Alexey Kim (Russia) sent the following report from his most recent trophies that earned him the Super 25:

Barren Ground Caribou (8/2025):

I've been dreaming about hunting barren ground caribou for many years. My first experience took place back in 2023, organized by **Thor Stacey**. My wife Angela and I hunted for eight days and saw only one caribou, but were unable to get it. After obtaining an American visa in February 2025, I immediately began organizing a second attempt. Unfortunately, hunting areas with well-known outfitters were already occupied long before I reached out. I had to search for alternatives among acquaintances for a long time until luck smiled upon me thanks to a wolf hunt in Alaska in January 2025. Its organizer **Coke Wallace** recommended contacting **John Martinez** from **Northern Sky Expeditions**. We quickly found common ground, discussed the terms, and soon I found myself in the heart of Alaska again. However, before reaching the destination, I had to endure a weather challenge. A four-day wait in the town of Fairbanks became a test of patience. Finally, the long-awaited news came from our pilot Jordan. His plane was stuck in Fairbanks, which allowed us to head directly to the hunting camp without a stopover in Coldfoot.

On August 26, I flew from Fairbanks to the Brooks Range hunting camp. I spent two and a half hours in a small four-seat

airplane with Jordan. During the flight, we dropped off two pilots in Circle, and then reached the river, where I transferred to John's two-seater plane, which brought one hunter from Canada and a guide from the camp. Over eight days, this hunter took a Dall sheep, a grizzly bear, and a caribou. We flew for another 15 minutes over picturesque landscapes to the camp. The situation with the spread of small aviation in the U.S. is impressive. The country has a vast network of small airports and landing sites. These small sites (up to 50 meters) are often located in hard-to-reach areas, providing access to remote settlements and facilities. The four-seat plane I arrived on requires about 100 meters for landing, while John regularly took off, dropping someone off and picking them up, sometimes up to five times a day, from a spot of about 50 meters.

The first thing I did in the camp was sight my Weatherby rifle with a Leupold QR Mark V scope and 7 PRC, 180 ELD-M cartridges at distances of 100 and 650 yards. Besides me, there was one guide, Ric, and an assistant, Ethan, as well as the hunt organizer John Martinez. He had six permits for sheep, eight permits for caribou, and two permits for moose, with sheep hunting starting on August 10. By that time, the guys had already harvested four magnificent rams and one caribou. The camp's location turned out to be quite fortunate, as John had his own two-seater plane nearby, allowing hunters to move around the area quickly. I was accommodated separately in a spacious tent, which easily housed two beds. I settled on one bed while the other was filled with my gear. There was also a separate headquarters tent with a kitchen and a large tent intended for storing meat and trophies.

The next morning, I got up early and set off with my guide Rick and assistant Eton in search of caribou. Ahead lay a valley transitioning into hills, and further on were mountains. There the guys spotted three caribou. When we reached a rise, I pulled out my new Vectronix Vector binoculars, started observing, and soon noticed the three caribou. Eton got out the spotting scope, and we saw that they were trophy bulls. Deciding to change our position, we moved further along the slope. It turned out that our three caribou appeared right across from us on the opposite slope, heading uphill. Apparently, they had been startled by something invisible to us. The caribou ran about three kilometers and began to ascend into a ravine, where a fourth joined them, and then they disappeared into the thick morning fog. While the fog lingered, Rick and Eton went to check out a neighboring mountain. As Rick was descending, we saw that the caribou had turned back, deciding to return along their previous route. We immediately set off in pursuit of the animals. The crossing involved overcoming several fast-flowing mountain streams. Our boots got wet, and



Alexey Kim (Russia) hunted in Alaska in August 2025 to get this barren ground caribou.

our feet froze, but stopping wasn't an option as we had to catch up with the caribou. Rick was wearing high rubber waders, while Eton and I were in wet shoes and socks. We had to move quickly to keep up with the caribou.

After overcoming the obstacles, we spotted the caribou about 460 yards ahead, but the animals quickly moved away. We had to speed up, trying to close the distance. Finally, they stopped on a small plateau, calmly grazing. At first, we saw two small caribou at 270 meters, however, the best specimen remained hidden in the folds of the terrain. We continued moving forward until we found the third caribou over a small hill. He was a beautiful trophy with a grayish coat and black antlers covered in velvet. I got ready, made sure Eton turned on the camera, and pulled the trigger. The caribou immediately collapsed, slightly twitching and then finally lying still.

It was a remarkable specimen of the barren ground caribou. The first day of my hunt was a success. I was thrilled with such quick results! We took some photos and proceeded with the processing of the harvest. Strictly following U.S. laws, the first thing we did was fill out my hunting license and we cut the date on the paper. Then we attached a special metal tag to the antlers of the killed animal, carefully separated the carcass from the bones, skinned it, and packed all the parts into our backpacks, which became almost unmanageable.

The return journey stretched over three hours, with the navigator showing 3.2 miles. Overcoming small streams and marshy terrain, stopping to rest, we returned to camp around



Angela and Alexey Kim (Russia) with Alexey's eastern Canada moose taken in October 2025.

half-past seven in the evening. Thanks to my fellow hunter, he noticed us and helped carry the backpack. In camp, we drank some water, made ourselves tea, and later the guys prepared tenderloin from the caribou which was incredibly delicious! At John Martinez's, the guys were motivated and focused on results. Here, I realized how important the right approach, team confidence, and a well-thought-out strategy are.

Woodland Caribou / Eastern Canada Moose (10/2025): This hunt with **Dean Crocker of Deep Country Lodge** in Newfoundland concluded a three-region Canada program starting in British Columbia (West), then up to Nunavut (North), and over to Newfoundland (East), aimed at collecting two key trophies for the North American 29, the woodland caribou and eastern Canada moose. Conditions were demanding from day one with mixed weather, tough terrain, and boggy ground. On the third day of the hunt, after about one mile on foot, a precise 280-yard shot resulted in a clean, instant drop of the woodland caribou.

On day seven after several fruitless outings, a bull moose was spotted far away. A two-kilometer stalk brought us within range. We first saw a cow, then the bull appeared. With only seconds before they vanished, a steady shot from a Savage .300 WSM at 260 yards connected. The bull disappeared into cover, then suddenly reemerged where a swift follow-up finished the hunt.

This hunt was pivotal toward the North American Super Slam: 27 of 29 species are now complete with the Rocky Mountain bighorn (third attempt) and polar bear (second expedition) remaining. Deep Country Lodge delivered a powerful finale to the three-part Canada series with each hunt demanded endurance, experience, and precision. The woodland caribou and eastern Canada moose are worthy additions that bring us within reach of the North American Super Slam.



Alexey Kim (Russia, right) and his wife Angela with Alexey's woodland caribou taken with Deep Country Lodge in Newfoundland.

