

BIJOU SPRINGS HUNT OPENS

On the Lazy K II Ranch

Mark Thompson

Photos courtesy of Steve Shinn,
Cathy Allen Shinn, Cliff Sparrow
and Judi Tobias



The Bijou Springs Hunt opened the 2008-2009 season in fine style on October 18th, celebrating their twenty-fifth anniversary of the hunt. Gorgeous fall weather greeted the field of riders as they gathered at the kennels near Kiowa, Colorado on the Lazy K 11 Ranch. Upon their arrival, the field was presented with a gift from the masters, a beautiful commemorative medal designed by Jerry and Sue Kalamen. After a stirrup cup, toasts, and greetings from Joint-Masters Rohn Mitchell, Martha Love and Nancy King, Father Jim led the group in a traditional blessing of hounds.

Huntsman Nancy Mitchell and staff then hacked 16½ couple of hounds south into the Bijou Basin, followed by a field of over forty riders. Although the weather was warm and dry, coupled with wind which tended to snatch the scent away, the hounds worked tenaciously, finding in the southwest corner of the Lazy K 11.

The run led directly east and the young entry overran the line, as it twisted into the original homestead of the ranch. After taking the hounds to water, the pack was recast toward the north, but was unable to regain that line in the increasingly dry winds. Hunting toward the trees that mark the crystal mine, a large gypsum deposit at the head of a huge treed arroyo that glitters in the sun and a favorite area for resident coyotes, the hounds opened. After a terrific run through the trees and ravines, this coyote flushed into the open where the warm winds obliterated his scent. Hounds were stopped and Mitchell praised her hard-working hounds.

Several more short runs ensued and, finally, after three hours of sport, Mitchell blew for home. Nancy King, MFH, and husband Paul, hosted riders at their home for an abundant feast where guests lingered as this wonderful day drew to a close, resplendent with the promise of a spectacular silver anniversary season. ■

