

Jim Hester Ride

Jim Hester was an important part of ETI's beginnings. He was instrumental in acquiring many of the trails we still use today. Though his efforts he kept trails open and clear for



the riding we continue to do. He worked on behalf of ETI at the state level helping to legislate trails into existence. After Jim's death, the Jim Hester Memorial ride was begun. It is held on the high desert since this is where his final days were spent and where his heart seemed to be happiest.

The ride for many years moved from Yucca Valley near Morongo Valley above Palm Springs to Apple Valley, more to the north below Big Bear. Some years it was held in

Hesperia or Lucerne Valley. For the past several years it was settled in Pioneer Town in Yucca Valley. This desert is full of rock formations, flowers and interesting landscaping.

The ride is always held the last weekend in April. The ride has always been one of the most inexpensive rides so everyone could come and ride the trails, as Jim would have wanted all riders to do.



There are stories of Jim asking, "*Is everyone happy!*" as he lead them down the trails. At the end of the rides he would pass out feathers to everyone who rode with him. Often this tradition is still carried out with a feather pin given out.

All ETI members and their friends are encouraged to join this weekend ride to celebrate a true horseman who gave his time and energy for all present-day and future horsemen.