

Traveling Moon Ranch

Otis Orchards, WA

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It's been about 10 years since I laid eyes on my first Curly, DCC Traveler, and we have had quite an adventure since then. One Curly stallion turned into 3 more Curlies – one for each of us in the family and now we only breed to outside mares. As much as I love the foaling season and the babies, and as much as I miss the sprawling legs and gangly little bodies – I know my limit. Even with only 4 horses, we still have a hard time getting everyone ridden and trained up to compete in all the events I would like to attend.

Our main focus is 3-Day Eventing. Traveler, below, has turned into a steady mount for this sport. Our dressage is always just fine putting us right in line with the other horses in competition. But when it comes to jumping – he is in his element. He has never met a fence he didn't want to jump. I love the Curly personality which seems to shine through in competitions.



Traveler stands half-asleep in his stall getting saddled and is half-asleep as we approach the warm-up ring. It's like he can't seem to understand what all the other horses are so agitated about. Once we enter the warm-up ring, he wakes up and eyes the jumps and takes you for the ride of your life. He does his job and as soon as the round is over he goes back to being half-asleep. Both my vet and farrier have babies out of Traveler and they report this same type of attitude before their competitions! Many a time he has been underestimated by his opponents by his lackadaisical attitude until we enter the ring.



This year, Traveler placed 2nd in the Open Novice Division at the Stanton Farms Event and qualified for Area 7 Championships. What an honor it was for us to complete against the best horses in the Area 7 region. It came down to the show jumping ring on the last day. Traveler rode his round first which included a roll-back and several difficult turns to the fences and he nailed it!

I think we gave the other competitors a false sense of security. The next horse went and had 3 refusals on the fence after the roll-back. Another horse eliminated and 2 more had refusals. Traveler moved up into the Top Ten and we rode in the victory gallop around the arena. It's the biggest accomplishment of our riding life together.

Now my children, both girls, are riding more and competing more and we "fight" about which horse to ride & show. I competed Traveler's middle son – Timbuktu – this year and so did my daughter, Luna. He got quite the work-out this last season. While riding him at the Beginner Novice level in Eventing we picked up a 2nd place and qualified for the Area 7 championships. My daughter, Luna, rode at the Intro level and placed in the red & blue ribbons. Timbuktu won Horse of the Year, twice over, with both of us riding him.

He is a delightful horse to compete – standing tall at only 14'2 HH (by far my smallest get) and curly & fuzzy all over. He looks too cute to be of any consequence. But he floats when he trots and tucks up his legs at the fences and beats all the other taller and more "dignified" horses.

We have had fun racing in Endurance when the time allows. At my last endurance race I missed a ribbon on the trail and ended up riding 43 miles when I had only signed up to ride the 25-mile race. That was the longest loop of my life! Khatmoondhu, Traveler's eldest son, trotted along and up over sides of mountains, craggy rocks and steep downhill passages – ending up with all "A's" at the end of the ride and completely sound. He was barefoot the whole time.



Timbuktu, son of Traveler, ICHO # 142 D, with
Luna, above and right.





Xanadu, our youngest Traveler son, was easy to break to ride last year as he had spent his previous young years having my girls climb all over him. He seems to have the same floating trot and perfect canter as his brothers. It was be exciting to see what he excels at.

Most of the summer finds us packing the motorhome for riding competitions and driving all over our state and the neighboring ones. We endure extreme heat with limited water, flat tires on the motorhome, unending dust & flies, traffic jams that make you want to scream and

flat tires on the trailer. And we wouldn't have it any other way.

I just counted this last season's "haul". Our Curlies won 22 ribbons, horse blankets, bridles, crystal bowls, feed bags, and lots of horse treats. Traveler also won Horse of the Year, again, for Combined Training.

We are open for breeding to outside horses come the Spring. Traveler passes on not only his athleticism and hardworking attitude, but his sensibility & calm demeanor as well. He has sired 100% Curly horses from both straight and Curly mares. Feel free to contact as at travelingmoonranch@gmail.com to more breeding information.

Liz and Traveler, 142 D, Stadium 2. And Liz and Traveler before dressage.

