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Tetrathlon At USPC Championships

Virginia Rider Gets Special Recognition

By Carrie Camp



Opening ceremonies at the USPC Championships in Tryon, NC this summer. The Virginia Regional Pony Club sent 40 members to compete.

PHOTO COURTESY: E.B. STUTTS

Tetrathlon is the Pony Club version of the Olympic Pentathlon—the test of the junior Military Officer. From the days of the cavalry, a young officer was expected to be proficient in riding, the use of his side-arms, a sword and pistol, and fit to run distances or swim rivers to carry messages from one camp to another.

Pony Club continues this sport in the Tetrathlon which consists of riding, shooting (air pistol), swimming, and running. This year was special because we were the host country for the United States Pony Clubs International Tetrathlon Exchange. Teams from England, Australia, Canada and Ireland joined us in Tryon, North Carolina—appropriately just ahead of the World Equestrian Games this September.

A young competitor named Calder from Deep Run Hunt Pony Club in Manakin-Sabot, Virginia, competing in the Intermediate Boys division, provides us with a perfect example of the Pony Club spirit as well as good, old fashioned stick-to-it-iveness!

Calder traveled to Tryon
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with his mustang pony, Quest, to compete in Tet, representing the Virginia Region. It is a Team Competition and Calder was named as a member of a four-member team. At the Championships, Tet has two riding rounds over a course of jumps and two additional obstacles, which are a slip rail at which the rider must dismount, lead his horse over the rail and remount, and a gate which must be opened and closed while mounted. Calder and Quest went in for their first round in the George Morris Stadium and almost finished but they were eliminated when Calder fell off. Then it was off to shooting for the day.

Day 2 started with swimming which tired everyone out, then round two of riding. Unfortunately, Calder and Quest came to grief again with too many refusals, and were eliminated a second time.

The last phase, on Day 3, was the run—a straight uphill endeavor. Calder put his heart into it and gave a giant effort for his team. Overall, this particular competition had been a long

continued on p. 25



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Tetrathlon.....from p. 23 mental and physical struggle for Calder, but he kept going! A great relief to finish, Calder showed his moxie in ordering a picture of his jumping fall to send to the *Chronicle of the Horse* magazine's "Monday Morning Missed-It" section.

The awards ceremony began and Calder and his team finished in second place, despite his eliminations. Best of all Calder received special recognition for caring for his pony, Quest, so well over the three days of competition, with zero Horse Management points (a competition addition in Pony Club).

Calder's pluck was so admired by one of the Australian Team members that he gave Calder his Australian Team Shirt. Check out Pony Club and come watch Quest and Calder, sporting the yellow and green of Australia, working on their jumping. To see all of the results from USPC Championships East, visit our website (<https://vrponyclub.org/Results>).

Virginia Pony Breeders Association Awarded VHIB Grant

*Funding Helps Provide Prize Money
For Pony Breeders*

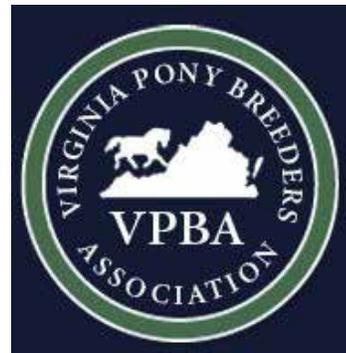
By Janet McLean

The Virginia Pony Breeders Association is proud to announce that for the ninth consecutive year it received a monetary grant from the Virginia Horse Industry Board (VHIB) through its "Virginia Bred" program. The 2018 grant included \$6,000 in support of three 2018 VPBA programs, plus \$1,000 for the promotion and marketing of these events, as well as for some of the Futurity expenses.

VHIB's mission is the promotion and economic development of the Virginia equine industry and to that end, it instituted its "Virginia Bred" program in 2010. Over this nine-year period, VPBA

has received a total of nearly \$40,000 from VHIB, while providing 140 opportunities for VPBA members to obtain financial rewards for producing outstanding breeding and performance ponies.

This year opportunities for VPBA members to receive a portion of these state funds include the VPBA YOUNG PONIES UNDER SADDLE CLASSES as well the REGISTERED VIRGINIA BRED PERFORMANCE DIVISION. The owners of the top four ponies in the Year End standings in both categories are eligible for the monetary awards.



In addition, each section of the VPBA YEARLING FUTURITY, held at the Upperville Horse Show, awards a portion of the grant in the Colt/Gelding and the Filly sections, where owners of the top six ponies are eligible to receive a portion of the grant.

Shows offering the VHIB grant supported classes begin in April and continue through September and are awarded at the VPBA's annual Awards Banquet.



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