

**(( ( Black Prong Today ) ) )**  
**JUNE 28, 2005**

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Your link to current events, facility updates and special programs at Black Prong Equestrian Center,  
Bronson, FL. <http://www.blackprong.com>  
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Dear Friends,

A big THANK YOU to our Black Prong “extended family”, for your kind words of encouragement and wishes for a safe journey as we prepare to leave for Europe in July to prepare for the 2005 Pairs Championships.

We look forward to sharing updates on our progress in Europe, but we will also continue to update you about the many things our team here at “home” is doing to make your 2005-2006 season at Black Prong more enjoyable than ever!

We also bid safe journey to others who will represent our nation at various European competitions leading up to the World Championships, and we look forward to sharing our “scrapbook” via our web site. We may even share a few photos throughout the summer, as we transition this newsletter to a more exciting and user-friendly format!

Please read on to learn about facility events, updates and special offers. As always, we welcome your feedback and wish you a safe and happy summer.

Maureen & Alan Aulson

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**FACILITIES UPDATE**

Throughout the facility, we’re letting the bahia grass grow tall and re-seed itself in order to produce a lush, denser turf. It also helps produce home-grown hay for our cows – a form of recycling the good earth here at Black Prong.

We’ve installed miles of new roadway around the dressage areas at the South Annex. This offers great footing for your exploration – enjoy!

Another benefit of coming to Black Prong is to enjoy nature at its best! You and your equines can explore miles of trails in the Goethe State Forest, and enjoy the fascinating vegetation, songbirds, wildlife and beautiful birds that migrate south each winter.

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**HERE COMES THE BRIDE**

Black Prong looks forward to hosting our very first wedding this weekend, July 2, in our Pavilion. The happy couple is getting married on horseback on the ramp at Maureen’s Falls - our newest obstacle, complete with water fountains - behind the Pavilion. Reception to follow in the Pavilion! Congratulations and our warmest wishes to the happy couple, soon-to-be Mr. and Mrs. John & Janet Rufolo.

Reserve your event dates now! Black Prong is a unique facility for private meetings, receptions and events.

**ACCOMMODATIONS REMINDER**

Our facility is growing, with the goal of providing you with the very best service we can! Thank you for your patience and support as we work to accommodate everyone’s needs for both long and short term rentals. Please reserve as early as possible, and keep these guidelines in mind:

Short-term rentals will not be confirmed until after the dates below, in order to allow for scheduling of long-term (monthly) rentals, which take precedence until these dates. Request your reservation as early as possible, to be added to the priority list from which we will fill requests for short-term rentals in the order they were received.

- December short term rentals confirmed after October 31
- January short term rentals confirmed after November 30
- February short term rentals confirmed after December 31

Long-term (monthly) rental guests please reserve before these dates for best availability. Once again, we look forward to your stay with us!

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**PUBLIC USE PROGRAM FOR BLACK PRONG FACILITIES**

As part of our complimentary Public Use program, Black recently hosted a meeting of the Planning Boards of more than ten Florida Counties in our Pavilion, plus the regional group “Original Florida”, meetings of the Levy County Planning Board, and the local Explorers scouting group. It is our pleasure to support the community in this way.

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**EVENT ORGANIZERS WELCOME**

Do you have a passion for organizing Combined Driving Events? We want to meet you! Black Prong currently has outstanding event organizers, but in order to maintain the same level of quality shows you’ve come to expect, we can use some more! Please contact our office at [blackprongcenter@aol.com](mailto:blackprongcenter@aol.com) or call 352-486-1234.

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**WEB SITE UPDATE - New & Improved Events Section and Archives**

Although our “personal favorite” is Carriage Driving, we’re fans of “ALL things equestrian”! That’s why we’ve developed Black Prong as a resource center and “place in the sun” for ALL equine sports – including all driven and ridden disciplines. Enjoy training, vacationing, and lodging with us – and please tell your friends who enjoy ridden dressage, events under saddle, endurance or trail riding to “come on down!” We’re currently updating the Events section of our web site to offer detailed information for “Ridden, Driven, and Other Events” at Black Prong and locally – please visit often for updates.

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**BECOME A SEASON SUPPORTER (OR RENEW) AT LAST SEASON’S RATES!**

Your annual contribution as a Black Prong SEASON SUPPORTER helps us to provide competitors and visitors with an outstanding Black Prong experience. In return, we are happy to provide you with outstanding value that outweighs the face value of your contribution.

Sign up or RENEW BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30 at LAST YEAR'S rate of \$300. After September 30, the rate will increase to \$350. Renew now to "lock in" your Supporter Number, so it won't be re-assigned.

**WHAT'S YOUR LUCKY NUMBER? NEW BENEFIT FOR SEASON SUPPORTERS**

Do you have a favorite number that you'd like to use when competing at Black Prong events? We'll do our best to accommodate our season supporters who prefer a consistent number! Please let us know your top three number preferences when you submit your check for next season. Don't lose your number to someone who reserves before you! If you've already renewed, please call or e-mail the office with your choices. Office phone is 352-486-1234 or blackprongcenter@aol.com.

Season Supporters can take advantage of many benefits, including: Full use of all available Black Prong training facilities (cones course, dressage rings, marathon course, etc.); Reduced entry fee for most Black Prong-sponsored shows and clinics; Free use of the Black Prong Women's Fitness Center during regular hours; Discounts from participating vendors, and more!

Become a Season Supporter today! Simply mail your check for \$300, payable to Black Prong, to: Black Prong Equestrian Center, Season Supporter Opportunity, 450 SE CR 337, Bronson, Florida 32621.

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**REMINDER: TWELFTH LANE CLOSED DURING DRESSAGE AT BLACK PRONG SHOW**

During our upcoming Recognized Dressage Event on November 19 & 20, Twelfth lane (the road leading to the South and East annex) will be closed, and carriages will need to seek alternate routes through the forest. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, and we hope you'll come and support your friends (and make new ones!) who participate in the sport and art of Ridden Dressage.

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