



Alan and Maureen Aulson are presented the 2006 USEF National Horse Pairs Championship Trophy by Lizzie Chesson of the U.S. Equestrian Federation (USEF,) as groom Joanna Sz wajkosz looks on.

Black Prong's Aulson Wins 2006 National Horse Pairs Driving Championship

Alan Aulson's first west coast trip to compete with his team of hearty Morgans, Duke (Nordby Coalie Duke), and Chief (Meddo's Chief George), proved to be a winner as they earned the **2006 USEF National Horse Pairs Championship** on October 6-8 at the Shady Oaks CDE in Lodi, California. A Massachusetts native and the owner of Black Prong Equestrian Center in Bronson, Florida, Aulson was also a member of Team USA at the 2005 FEI World Pairs Driving Championships held in Salzburg, Austria.

Aulson praised his California hosts Fritz Grupe and the team at Shady Oaks, explaining, "They welcomed us and all the competitors very warmly and made us feel at home at their vast and delightful facility - which sprawls thousands of acres of spectacular wine country. At both Shady Oaks and the Horse Park in Woodside, CA, where we competed before the national championships, our west-coast counterparts appreciated that we made the trip. When we won, they were happy for us – but understandably disappointed to see the trophy go back east!"

Perpetual Trophy goes to Black Prong

The Moore Memorial Trophy was established in 1982 by the Myopia Driving Club in Hamilton, Massachusetts as a perpetual trophy for the World Championship Pairs Driving event. It commemorates Mr. and Mrs. Paul Moore, formerly of Beverly Farms, Massachusetts and great advocates of driving. In the trophy's 24-year history, more than half of the winners – whose names are engraved around the base – have won with versatile Morgan horses. Maureen and Alan Aulson have pledged to have the trophy cleaned and restored during this championship year, in preparation for its 25th anniversary next year.

Advanced Level at Black Prong

In support of other advanced-level drivers working toward qualifying for the world championships, Aulson has added advanced levels to the 2007 Nature Coast CDE in January and the 2007 Black Prong CDE in March, making them qualifiers for the 2007 pair and pony world championship contenders. These events will provide a valuable opportunity for drivers to qualify themselves and their animals before the first selection trial at Live Oak.

Father and Daughter Each Earn Top Honors with Morgans

On the heels of Aulson's National Pairs Driving Championship win, daughter Michelle Aulson of Arlington, VA earned two top titles – her second World Champion Classic Pleasure Driving title, and Reserve Grand National Classic Pleasure Saddle Geldings - with her Morgan, Whispering Rhythm-N-Blues, at the Morgan Grand National & World Championship in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma from October 7-14.

"The versatility of these Morgan horses is amazing – and we can take only part of the credit for what they've helped us accomplish throughout several championship competitions," explained Alan Aulson.

Located in Bronson, Florida within the 250,000-acre Goethe State Forest, Black Prong Equestrian Center is a unique 250-acre training, driving and lodging facility that hosts annual combined driving events as well as numerous equestrian workshops with international trainers. For more information, visit www.BlackProng.com.