

# BLACK PRONG

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EQUESTRIAN CENTER

July 2006

## **Black Prong's Aulson to Compete at International Driving Competition in Poland Site of the 2007 World Pairs Driving Championships**

Alan Aulson, member of Team USA at the 2005 World Pair Driving Championships held in Salzburg, Austria, will once again visit Europe to compete at an International CAI – A2 Pairs Driving Competition from August 18-20 at Farma Sielanka in Warka, Poland during the 2006 Polish National Driving Championships. A Massachusetts native and the owner of Black Prong Equestrian Center in Florida, Aulson is honored to be the first driver in several years to represent the U.S. in Poland.

"We've heard great things about the venue, and made great Polish friends and colleagues during the World competition last year. We're eager to experience all that Farma Sielanka has to offer, and share the details of our experience with fellow Team USA members upon our return," explained Aulson. The site also holds the distinction of hosting the 2007 World Pair Driving Championships, to which Aulson hopes to return with Team USA.

"We began planning for this trip early this year, when at a Live Oak competition, Harde Zantke mentioned the opportunity," explained Aulson. The Aulsons received approval from the USEF Driving Credentials Committee to compete with a pair of horses leased through arrangements made by Irek Szwajkosz, an Aulson family friend and guest, as well as the Pairs Trainer for the 2005 Slovakian Team at the World Championships in Austria and the 2002 Polish Team at the World Championships in France. Szwajkosz will return to Poland ahead of the Aulsons, in order to train and prepare the horses for Aulson's driving style.

The horse breeds, each an award-winning Silesian or Polish Warmblood, are a rare change from the Morgan horses with which Aulson typically competes. "We're a family of die-hard Morgan fans, but for this competition and such a short time frame, it didn't make sense to fly our horses. We are grateful to Irek for the use of the Polish breeds. Our motto for the trip will be: 'When in Poland, do as the Poles do – or in this case, drive a Polish breed!'"

Szwajkosz's daughter, Joanna, is currently in the U.S. as part of Black Prong Equestrian Center's Agricultural Exchange Program, whereby people receive a stipend and accommodations as guests of Black Prong as they participate in Black Prong programs. According to Alan Aulson, "The Exchange program is open to all Europeans, and we encourage more people to apply. It's a wonderful opportunity for them to gain experience, and for our center to benefit from their knowledge, talent, and cultural diversity."

Aulson is also set to compete at the U.S. National Pair Driving Championships in Lodi, California from October 6-8, 2006.

*Located in Bronson, Florida (U.S.A.) within the 250,000-acre Goethe State Forest, Black Prong Equestrian Center is a unique 250-acre training, driving and lodging facility that hosts three annual combined driving events as well as numerous equestrian workshops with international trainers. For more information, visit [www.BlackProng.com](http://www.BlackProng.com).*