

Historics at Barber

Story: Russell Grimer/Photos: MSA Staff

"I can't hear you, Russell. Charlie Daniels is getting on stage!"

-Ah crap, it's Talladega weekend, and I'm at Uncle Don's 90th birthday.

"Since you're not here, I'll be seeing you at Barber Motorsports Park for the Historic Races."

-I can't believe I'm not at Talladega.

"What kind of Historics?" I asked.

"Historic racing cars you moron, are you interested?"

"Hell yeah I am! Enjoy the concert, Boss Man, talk to you in a few."

-I can't believe I'm not at Talladega, at least Uncle Don is trying to wear two hats on his one head, Charlie Daniels has nothing on Uncle Don in terms of pure entertainment!

5:30 am and the worst sound a Saturday knows rings through my house. I hit the snooze. Ten minutes later, I'm up, simultaneously showering and injecting my body with far more caffeine than it's used to.

120 westbound. The forecast of rain is half a day away, Birmingham, Alabama only 2 hours to go. Thanks to a time zone change, we arrive a bit early for media check-in. The drive through the property revealed art installations more aesthetically pleasing than some modern art

galleries I've wandered through. "There's a monkey on the leader board!" "I know, Russell."

As an aside, I fully believe I could fill an entire weekend exploring these grounds. In my one day of coverage, mostly spent trackside, every section left a marvel to be discovered off track. Bugs, spiders, giants, ants, motorcycles, and monkeys, to name a few, can be found. I'll just be straightforward here. Fred, find a way to get me everywhere within these 740 perfectly maintained acres. I must see it all. The Augusta of racetracks? Indeed!

I digress. The Historic Motor Sports Association (HMSA) hosted this event alongside Bud's Best Cookies, Porsche, Sweet Home Alabama, Coca-Cola, and Metal Rescue. A car show, swap meet, art event, movie night, "Barber-que" competition, Porsche Sport Driving School rides, and an autocross on Sunday allowed plenty of opportunities to get distracted from the racing, or kept you busy while you waited for more.

Nearly 100 participants from 17 different states took to the course on race day. The clean efficient racing paid homage to the nature and state of the facilities. The smooth flow of the track enhanced by the sport and racing legends which graced its tarmac. At 32 years old, I can now say I have seen a GT40 on the track. I just drooled on myself thinking about it.

Go to Barber Motorsports Park. There is no plausible reason as to why you cannot, and no non-regrettable excuse for having not. 6030 Barber Motorsports parkway Birmingham, Alabama 35094. You set the GPS, I'll see you there.

