

## **The Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama**

by Gil Ferguson

The Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama was held at Barber Motorsports Park in Leeds, AL on April 7. Barber is an excellent track that hosts the Indy Grand Prix every year, along with other sports car races. The venue includes the Barber Motorsports Museum as well as the Porsche Performance Driving School.

Since storms were in the forecast and we were taking chairs, drinks, snacks and other stuff, the BMW X3 was pressed into service. We could have parked at the Hagerty Car Corral for sports cars only, where for \$40 we would have shared space with Ferrari, Lamborghini and other automotive exotica. Instead, for \$25 we parked on a paved lot across the road from an excellent view of turn 16. The other option was to park off site in a shopping center and be bussed in for free.

There were three races that afternoon, starting with the GT3 Cup race around noon, followed by the Lamborghini Super Trofeo race, then the Indy Grand Prix at 3 PM. Turn 16, which includes two right-handers with a short straight in between and a pit exit on the left, was the site of several spin outs, including two GT3s that met rather unceremoniously. The Indy car race had two drivers trying to get on the pit exit road at the same time, with one driver going straight into the barrier. Most of the damage was to the driver's ego.



**GT3 spinout, Honda Indy Grand Prix**

The Indy car race was won by Takuma Sato of Japan, who led for most of the race. He even went off the track at one point but managed to maintain control. All in all,

it was a good day at Barber. The weather even cooperated with a mix of sun and clouds. Note to self: Next time bring sunscreen and drive the 911.