

BSMGAC and Laps for Larz driving event

(Jack): I received an email from the Larz Anderson Auto Museum regarding an upcoming event that might be of interest to club members. I forwarded the invite out to the club and John Hall responded back that he was attending. Here is his report on the event:

We did go to the Laps for Larz event on Sunday, October 4, 2020. This was an event held to benefit the Larz Anderson Museum in Brookline, Mass. Participants met at 8 AM at Pro Shaper (<https://www.proshaper.com>), a metal fabrication facility in Charlton, MA where coffee and bagels were provided. This is a very interesting firm. Not only will they perform metalwork to your specification but they will provide instruction in many/all aspects of metal fabrication, especially auto body sheet metal. They had all the equipment you could want from English wheels and TIG welders to hammer and dolly. Many projects were on display in different stages of completion. You can find them on the web if you want to sign up for a class.

At about ten o'clock we left there for Palmer Motor Sports Track in Palmer Mass. Unlike Lime Rock or Thompson, they are not allowed to hold competitive events there. Instead it is run more like a country club. People buy memberships. It's a place to mix with like-minded folks, work on your driving skills, or just have a blast wringing out your car! You can rent a garage and they have events for members as well as being available for events like this. They eventually plan to sell house lots there similar to a fly-in community. My son, Justin, and I had a great time. The course is about 2.4 miles long with 14 corners and about 500 feet in elevation change. There were about sixty cars participating. They were sent out behind a pace car in groups of 12 to 15 for three laps at a time once before lunch and thrice after. The majority were newer cars, 1990 and up, a lot of BMWs and Porsches, and an eclectic array of others from average sedans to SUVs, some sporty, some not so much. One guy had a mid 90s Volvo wagon. Everyone was very friendly.

We took our MGA and it was perfect for the task. There were not many older cars, maybe ten. A TR-3, a Bug eye Sprite, MGB, a 70s Alpha, Volvo P 1800, a few others. One guy had a 67 Chevelle with a 427 in it.

I drove the the run before lunch, again provided for with the entry fee, with Justin as passenger. Justin drove the three after lunch. His first with the vintage group to get his feet wet, the next two with the regulars. I'll tell you what, it's a lot different being the passenger than the driver!

It was absolutely a blast and likely the most fun I've had with my car. Lunch was good with a choice of five different grilled sandwiches, chip and drink. We will do it again in a heartbeat. This is not an event that is hard on the cars. It is non competitive (no passing allowed). They even formed a group for those who preferred to not go as fast. They called it the vintage group. I'm not sure if that referred to the cars or the drivers! More clubs should come to events like this, it's what our cars were made for.

