

BMW X: Testing the ‘Sports Activity Vehicle’

By Frank S. Washington

DETROIT – Some of the labels put on vehicles these days are interesting. In the case of the BMW X1, they call it a sports activity vehicle, or SAV. That can mean almost anything; the reality is that the X1 was a sub-compact sport utility and a very good one.

It has been on sale in the U.S. since the fall of 2012 and it has done very well. One of the reasons is its styling. The 2014 BMW X1 had a sweeping hood, a long wheel base and it sat low to



2014 BMW X1

the Sport Line package. It had 18-inch alloy wheels, side view mirror caps in black, sport seats and high gloss black trim. Its Valen-

made 240 horsepower and a very healthy 260 pound-feet of torque from 1,250 rpm to 4,800 rpm. The horsepower translated into quickness and the torque enabled our X1 to accelerate with authority from just about any speed.

Coupled with an eight-speed Steptronic automatic transmission (BMW’s language for manual shift and sport shift capability), the X1 had responsiveness similar to a sports car, it could accelerate and generate a bit of G-force and it could get from a standstill to 60 mph in 6.3 seconds.

The X1 cornered well and though low to the ground it was never overwhelmed by traffic. The suspension had BMW’s balance of smoothness with just enough stiffness to let the driver know what the vehicle was doing and it could get off the dime as they say. It was really a fun drive.

cia orange paint job was a standout and it contrasted nicely with the black leatherette interior with red French stitching.

Despite its good looks, BMWs have always been renowned for their drivability and it was no different with the 2014 BMW X1. We had the BMW X1 xDrive28i. And that is not a typo; there are no spaces in the alphanumeric of the model line.

The test vehicle had a 2.0-liter, turbocharged four-cylinder engine that

What’s more, no doubt with the aid of its eight-speed automatic transmission, the BMW X1 x28i had an EPA rating of 22 mpg in the city and 33 mpg on the highway. Its combined fuel consumption of 26 mpg was respectable, especially given its athletic performance attributes.

In BMW-speak, the small x meant all-wheel-drive.

The system had an electronic multi-plate clutch that allowed it to transfer power between the front and rear wheels. In normal operation it was rear-wheel biased, sending 80 percent of the engine’s torque to the rear and 20 percent to the front wheels.

The X1 also had what BMW called ECO PRO. It optimized accelerator map-

ping and shift characteristics of the transmission. It also would regulate seat heating, climate controls and side mirror heating. However, given the summer climate that equipment was not needed. Coupled with the stop/start function meant we drove nearly 150 miles in an urban setting and still had more than one half tank of fuel.

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the ground. The vehicle had an aerodynamic look that said speed.

From the front, BMW’s iconic kidney grille was prominent, along with the twin round headlights, another BMW trademark. The side featured skirts that are characteristic of all BMW X models, of which there now are three. Horizontal lines in the rear and the LED taillights made the X1 look wider with more substance. It was a good looking vehicle.

Our test vehicle featured

Obituary L.C. Oddie

L.C. Oddie of Portland, Ore. (originally from Jackson, Miss.) died Aug. 9, 2014. He was 66 years old. L.C. was a great community leader, father, and friend to have. He leaves

behind Debby Oddie, L.C. Oddie, Valorie Oddie-Smith, Daydrina Oddie, Yamina Oddie, 12 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. He will be greatly missed.

Obituary

Geri Ward of the Lovely Ladée Beauty Salon 1923-2014

Sunrise: March 7, 1923 Sunset: Aug. 11, 2014

Geraldine G. Ward was born on March 7, 1923 in Independence, Mo., and passed away in Portland, Ore., Aug. 11, 2014.

She was the only daughter born to Quindella and Hobart Sage.

Her education was in the public schools of Independence.

Graduated from Hirman Young High School; attended Phillips Jr. College and later graduated from Madame C.J. Walker School of Cosmetology in Kansas City, Missouri. Her life’s work was as a beautician and she retired in 1993. She moved to Portland, Oregon in 1958.

That same year she united with Bethel A.M.E. Church under the pastorate of Rev. Harley Akers. A proud member of various organizations such as The



Matron’s Club, The Alter Guide Finance Committee, A Class Leader and a Missionary on “Churchwomen United.”

Geraldine was united in marriage to Joseph P. Ward on Dec. 4, 1966 in Portland; no children from this union. He preceeded her in death in 1995, as did her parents, two brothers, two nieces

and one nephew.

She leaves to continue celebrating her life: one nephew, 13 great nieces and nephews, 11 great great nieces and nephews and friends. Geraldine is resting peacefully after dedicating her life to God, His Church, her family, community and friends.

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