



# Auspuffanlage

Volume 27, Issue 1

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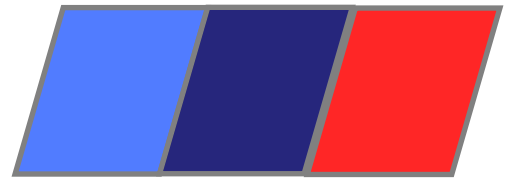
**A BMW Motorhome?  
1987 Vixen**

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Inland Empire Chapter**



# President's Corner



## Beauty in Form and Function

Why do American car owners prefer German engineering so much? German cars aren't the cheapest, the most exotic, the most "trouble free", and maybe not even the most "elegant." So why do marques like BMW sell so many cars? We could consider many social and economic reasons, but I don't think these are really at the heart of the decision of so many Americans to patronize the Teutonic manufacturers. I believe a genuine appreciation for beauty is at the heart of a German car's appeal – particularly for BMW owners.

What do we mean by "beauty?" Well, what we don't mean is "transient" beauty – a style that today captivates but tomorrow is "old shoe." True beauty, particularly in an automobile, cheats time and is a measure of the way the design compliments the function and the function the design. Typical of "beautiful" automobiles are designs which do not rely on any one spectacular feature, but rather on the collective effect of ancillary designs on the beautiful whole.

Sound like gobbledygook? Have you ever really looked at the solid cast aluminum control arms of an E39 BMW 540i or of a Porsche 944? Someone with an eye for beauty penned them. In fact, I know a detailer who, after removing their covering of road grime, could no longer bear the thought that grease would ever again conceal their beauty. It is as though the designers of these and other components originally vied with each other for the most functional and aesthetically beautiful creation, trusting that the collective beauty of the whole would be the sum of the parts.

In reality these control arms could have been created with much less cost and effort, could have still met a minimum standard of safety, and would probably have lasted for the realistic life of the car. So, why the extra effort? Why the more costly material? Why the higher standard? Can't you hear your favorite American manufacturer: "Why bother making control arms of sculptured lightweight aluminum? They're not even going to be seen by anyone but a mechanic! Yeah, stamped steel is just about as good and a lot cheaper." Perhaps this "economy-over-beauty" mantra is why the Germans own the sports sedan market. Beauty, exemplified in both form and function, is seldom inexpensive. Although not

immune from economic considerations when manufacturing automobiles, German marques like BMW prefer a slightly-lopsided "balance" in their manufacturing strategy: FIRST, aesthetic integration of form and function – beauty-- then efficient methods of manufacture in order to bring beauty and economy together.

Think this "control arm" thing is just a coincidence? Look at the interior, exterior, and engine-bay designs of the cars on which these "wasteful" control arms are placed. There is no bad angle from which to view these beauties, all or in part. Creative flow and finely crafted pieces all around! So, again, why are Americans so taken by German engineering? Speaking for the owners of the blue and white Roundel, we have an affection for automotive beauty and recognize it in every facet of BMW.

Disagree?  
Drop me a line at [president@iebmw.org](mailto:president@iebmw.org).

Tom Sparks,  
IEBMWCCA President



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## M235i Racing

**BMW Motorsport** has recently released additional technical details of its latest product, the **M235i Racing**.

Talking about the dimensions, the vehicle is 4454mm long, 1862mm wide (without mirrors), 1380mm tall and has a wheelbase of 2690mm. It rides on 18-inch alloy wheels and comes fitted with H&R suspension springs together with KW dampers. The M235i Racing has a front & rear H&R anti-roll bar as well as high-performance brakes with four-pot fixed calipers.

Under the hood there is a straight-six TwinPower Turbo 3.0-liter gasoline engine with an output of 333 HP (245 kW) and a peak torque of 450 Nm (331 lb-ft). Other highlights of the model include a limited-slip differential, a racing exhaust with racing catalytic converters and steering wheel-mounted shift paddles. In the interiors, the cabin has Recaro Pro Racer SPG racing seats, Schroth six-point racing harness and a FIA-approved roll cage.

The **BMW M235i Racing** kicks off from 59,500 EUR, excluding value added tax.





## Beemers & Bimmers & Beezers, OH MY!

By now we all know the affectionate pet names for our motorcycles, cars and us older people who drive them. But what would you call a BMW motorhome? Say what? Is it possible? you may be unaware that our beloved marque was involved with recreational vehicles?

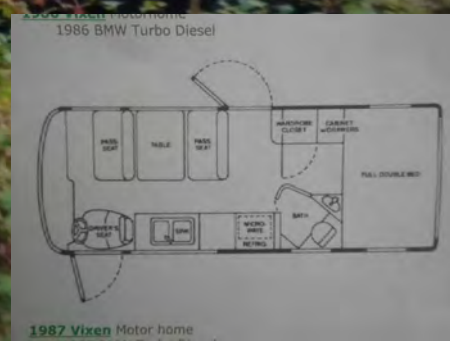
A Vixen first appeared to me in the midst of the forest. A svelte creature at only 5,100 pounds. Vixen motorhomes, Were built by Vixen Motor company of Pontiac Michigan, Vixens were powered by BMW 2.4 liter inline 6 cylinder turbo diesel from 1986 to 1988. Aided by a Renault 5 speed manual transmission sporting a light weight fiberglass body. A drag coefficient of only .29, 30 miles per gallon was possible. That combination also allowed for a top speed of 100 miles per hour. The wheels were set only 5 inches wider then a standard automobile and it could park in a typical garage.

They have attained a cult status and can be found on occasion to come up for purchase. Prices start at an estate pricing of \$15,000 to a fully restored version with upgraded amenities for a mere pittance for only \$50, 000 Yes 50 large- it too can be yours.

Somehow calling it a Bummer does not sound right, Perhaps a BOOMER would be more appropriate for our older generation!

Fred & Michelle Samuels  
Frenchtown, Montana

**1987  
BMW  
Vixen**





# Upcoming Events

View Event List in Detail at [www.iebmw.org](http://www.iebmw.org)



**January**

**9 Fast Cart Night**

**February**

**15 Winter Banquest @ Das Steinhaus, Spokane**

**March**

**29 Spring Fever Drive**

**April**

**27 Street Survival Teen Driving Safety Course**

**May**

**14 Burgers & Bimmers**

**31 Tech Session @ Camp BMW**

**June**

**28 River Dance Drive**

**July**

**27 Classic Sports Sunday Show & Driving Tour**

**August**

**23 Show & Shine @ Camp BMW**

**September**

**20 Odessa German Deutschesfest Car Show**

**October**

**4-5 High Performance Driving Event, Spokane County Raceway**

## BMW M235i.

This vehicle gets started where others stop: turbocharged straight six-cylinder engine with 240 kW (326 hp), dynamic braking, a rear spoiler lip for increased surface pressure, M Sport chassis and lots more – welcome to a world that revolves around racing and offers breathtakingly high performance.

With its special six-cylinder in-line engine and sporty engine sound, the M Performance is the sportiest of the 2 Series models. Even at first glance, its 18" M light alloy wheels with specially developed mixed tyres, Xenon Headlights and M Sport brakes in Dark Blue metallic with the "M" logo are indicative of the vehicle's dedication to outstanding sportiness. The specially aligned M Sport suspension, lowered by 10 mm, and variable sport steering incl. Servotronic, give the vehicle improved agility and driving dynamics. The M Aerodynamics package with a special front apron and rear diffuser, along with the rear spoiler on the luggage compartment, ensure better aerodynamics and downforce behaviour. Exterior mirror caps in Ferric Grey, along with the two tailpipes in black chrome, perfectly round off the vehicle's sporty look. Any remaining doubts about this model's unique performance are immediately dispelled by the sight of the "M235i" model name in dark chrome on the rear.



The interior of the M Performance model exudes extraordinary sportiness with door sill finishers with the "M235i" logo, sport seats for the driver and front passenger with classic M-style upholstery seams and the M leather steering wheel with multifunction buttons. The appropriate atmosphere is generated by the M interior trims in sporty Aluminium Hexagon and the instrument cluster with a specific dial design and fine chronoscales, as well as by the instrument cluster with extended functionality complete with "M235i" logo. The M Performance model also comes with an M driver footrest. The interior lighting can be set to the exclusive colours orange-red or white. The BMW Individual headliner in Anthracite above complements the dynamic look. The Radio Professional adds a melodious final touch to the interior.