Portland Observer Auto Review

Auto Review: 2007 Subaru Forester XT Limited

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The Forester is a wagon that believes it's an SUV, and so will you. You can drive with a clear conscience. Its subdued looks won't draw the attention of the eco-terrorist, and its fuel economy is nearly on a par with that of most mid-priced sedans. Market research has shown that the Forester inspires higher owner loyalty than just about any other vehicle on the market. That's because the Forester delivers the SUV features its buyers want, including a high seating position, good cargo space and a superb all-wheel-drive system with enough off-road capability. If I were looking for a relatively sure-thing investment, I think I would go for a Subaru franchise. The products just keep getting better and better.

Subaru developed the Forester as different kind of sport utility vehicle, which eliminates the harsh ride and ungainly handling of truck-based SUVs by borrowing the chassis of a passenger car. The simple genius of this design is the reason the Forester is not required to carry a warning label referencing the increased risk of roll-overs due the vehicle design and related handling characteristics. The Forester's handling is perfect for unpaved backcountry roads or logging trails, the conditions that most of us encounter when we venture off the pavement. The Forester is more practical than the typical SUV for prowling the urban jungle and better for handling treacherous weather on the highway. You can plow through puddles without fear of tire slippage. And because the AWD is constantly engaged you don't have to fiddle with it, leaving you to keep focus on the road.

With the newly-tweaked turbocharged engine, Foresters are eager and frisky performers. The transformation from docile to muscle comes when you punch the throttle of the XT Limited. Gear changes can be made accurately and quickly, the turbo engine goes from whisper to growl as the tach reaches the red zone. Subaru's engines, with four cylinders opposed horizontally and set perpendicular to the drive line, employs equal-length drive shafts, so there is very little vibration or residual torque. The power from the engine moves directly through an intelligent transfer case for distribution to all the wheels, with scant loss of energy in the process. The Forester XT's turbocharged power boost makes it one of the most exhilarating vehicles of this type to drive.

The Forester has a bold, head-turning desig with safety features above the government standards, luxury as a standard and unbelievable fuel and driving performance. This is the reason the Forester has earned the 'Consumer Digest's Best Buy' in its class five years in a row. Easy to get in and out of, easy to load and unload, everything is easier because of its ideal size. And with a great price and rugged looks, you're traveling the high road in style. The Subaru Forester XT is proof that it's possible to experience comfort and adventure together.

***SPECIFICATIONS**: 2.5Liter, 4 Cylinders/ Turbo engine; manual 5-speed, AWD Transmission; City 20 MPG – Highway 27 MPG EPA; $27,895.00 MSRP.*

Community Calendar

Ladies Night Out

Local woman are invited to the multicultural "Ladies Night Out" celebration Friday, Nov. 10 at 6 p.m. at Courtyard Marriot, 1231 N. Anchor Way. Expect a night of excitement, encouragement and impartation. Admission is $5. For more information, call Martha Thomas at 503-752-8587.

Neighborhoods in Focus

The public is invited to attend a panel discussion on how Portland's neighborhood system serves the city today and in the future. The free League of Women Voters event is scheduled Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Board Room of the Multnomah Building, 501 S.E. Hawthorne.

Say Hey Reception

Partners in Diversity welcome new professionals of color with a reception allowing new professionals to network with community leaders on Thursday, Nov. 9, from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Self Enhancement, Inc., 3920 N. Kirby Ave. For information, call 503-516-3505.

Women in Community Service

Volunteer female mentors are being sought by Women in Community Service to work with incarcerated women at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. The women provide support and encouragement for inmates transitioning from prison back into the community. For more information, call 503-570-6614.

Benefit Concert

Friday, Nov. 10, at 8 p.m., Acme, 1350 S.E. Eighth Ave., will host a benefit to support "In Other Words" a local feminist bookstore, featuring Siren's Echo, Ariel Gore, and the Evolutionary Jass Band. Sliding scale donations $5-$50. Must be 21 and up. Contact 503-230-9020.

Free Admission Day

Friday, Nov. 10, the Japanese Garden, 611 S.W. Kingston, will open its gates free to the public between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Art of Living Festival

Saturday, Nov. 11, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., the Fox Chase Business Association and the Concordia Neighborhood Association host an "Art of Living" festival. The event at participating business around Northeast 30th and Killingsworth include art, music, food, workshops, wine tasting, temporary tattooing and a turkey-free thanksgiving tasting.

Lost Boy of Sudan

Tuesday, Nov. 14, at 7:15 p.m., In Other Words Bookstore, 8B N.E. Killingsworth St., and the Portland Coalition for Genocide Awareness present an evening with Benson Deng, who at age 7, along with many other boys; walked thousands of miles to seek refuge after being driven out his small village in war-torn Sudan.

Lents Homeowners Help

Members of the Lents Homeownership Initiative and partners will host "How to Repair Your Credit", a free home buying workshop on Tuesday, Nov. 14 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Kelly Elementary, 9030 S.E. Cooper St. RSVP to Amie Diffenauer at 503-788-8052 or amie@rosecdc.org.

Black History Museum

The Black History Museum of Oregon is seeking brilliant minds of concerned individuals to help in restructuring the museum foundation's committee. For information, call 503-284-0617

Global Exchange

Thursday, Nov. 16, at 6 p.m. at the PSU Smith Center Ball Room, Portland State University Students for Unity, present Nigerian environmental and human rights activist, Omoyele Sowore: a former political prisoner, speaking of the death and destruction caused by multinational oil companies throughout the Niger Delta.

Oregon Food Bank

The Oregon Food Bank seeks volunteers on Mondays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to noon, to sort and repack perishable foods. Call 503-282-0555, extension 272 or visit Oregonfoodbank.org.

Racial Profiling Discussion

Tuesday, Nov. 21, from Noon to 1 p.m. at the Portland State University's Smith Memorial Student Union, Multicultural Center, Smith 228, JoAnn Bowman, the associate director of Oregon Action, will discuss "Racial Profiling and Resistance in Portland".

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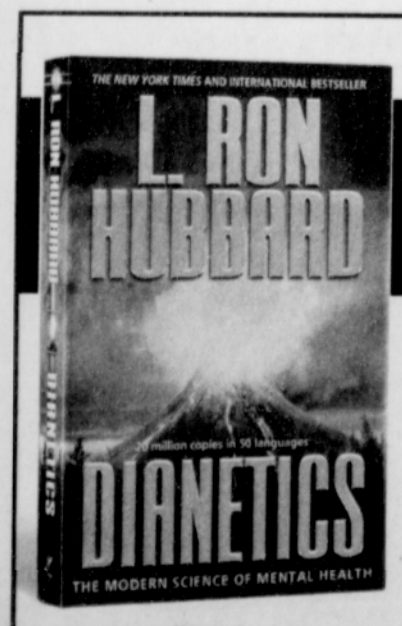

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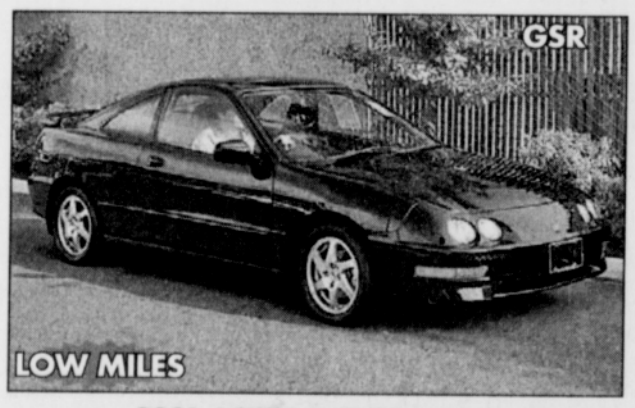
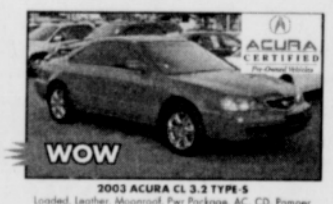
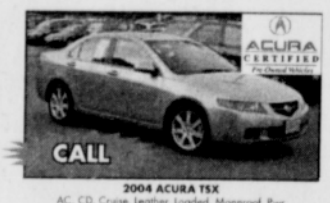
Dick Hannah
ACURA of Portland



2001 ACURA INTEGRA GS-R
AC, CD, Loaded, Leather, Pwr Package, PW, PM, PL, Moonroof.
#99126 JH4DC23941S003289 W:00055643

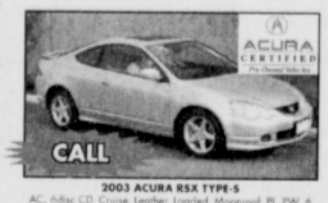


2003 ACURA CL 3.2 TYPE-S
Loaded, Leather, Moonroof, Pwr Package, AC, CD, Pamper Yourself #P99119 19UYA41673A008042 W:00055648



2004 ACURA TSX
AC, CD, Cruise, Leather, Loaded, Moonroof, Pwr Package, PL, PM, PW, The Ultimate Elegance. #P99123 JH4CL96834C023104 W:00055658

1993 HONDA ACCORD SE
AC, CD, Cruise, Loaded, Leather, PW, PL, Moonroof. JHMCB7684PC013080 W:00055645



2003 ACURA RSX TYPE-S
AC, 6disc CD, Cruise, Leather, Loaded, Moonroof, PL, PW, 6 Speed. #P99072 JH4DC530235002700 W:00055649

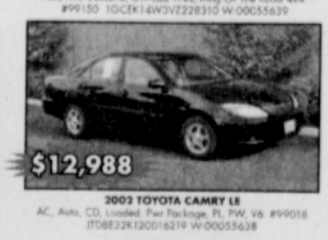
1997 FORD MUSTANG GT
AC, Cassette, CD, Cruise, Convertible, Leather, Loaded, PL, PW, First Class Comfort. What A Bargain Beauty. #99084 1FALP45X2VF140776 W:00055652

1995 ACURA LEGEND GS
AC, AM/FM, Cassette, Cruise, Loaded, Leather, Moonroof, Pwr Package, Heated Seats, Dream Of A Lifetime. #99127 JH4KA7688SC017530 W:00055637

1997 CHEVROLET C/K 1500 SERIES K1500 SILVERADO
AM/FM, Cassette, Off-road Tires, Ring Of The Road 4x4 #99150 1GCEK14W3VZ228310 W:00055639

2000 HONDA ODYSSEY LX
AC, Cassette, CD, Captain's Chair, Cruise, Loaded, PW, PL, Tint, V6, Why Settle For Less? #99073 2HKRL1858YH560917 W:00055655

2004 SAAB 9-3 ARC
AC, CD, Cruise, Leather, Loaded, Moonroof, Pwr Package, PW, PM, PL, Dream Of A Lifetime. #P99111Z YS3FD49Y341056612 W:00055641



2002 TOYOTA CAMRY LE
AC, Auto, CD, Loaded, Pwr Package, PL, PW, V6. #99018 JTDBE32K120016219 W:00055638

2001 DODGE DURANGO
AC, Auto, Cruise, Keyless Entry, PL, PM, PW, V8, 4x4. 1B4HS28N81F594700 W:00055651

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