

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

Portland Observer Auto Review

2008 Mercury Mariner Premier 4WD

Sophistication and Flair

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2008 Mercury Mariner received the first significant redesign since its launch in 2005. Building on that foundation by adding higher levels of style and refinement, it is a look that will keep the Mercury brand moving forward. For 2008 the Mariner is updated with a comprehensive safety package, a quieter ride and more refined driving dynamics.

"The 2008 Mariner is the first product to truly deliver 100 percent

of the design DNA for Mercury as a brand," says Kim Irwin, Mercury brand manager. "It looks good and drives well, it has sophisticated style, and it's not like anything else out there."

On the outside, the 2008 Mariner's all-new sheet metal includes significant design changes to the front/rear fascias, liftgate, headlamps and taillamps, a raised beltline, new hood and B-pillar blackout molding. There's also a unique satin signature waterfall grille. The 2008 Mariner is an unmistakable Mercury presence on the road.

The new Mariner's design



Specifications: 3.0-Liter, V6, 200-hp @6000 rpm, torque 193@4850 lb-ft engine; 4-Speed Automatic O/D transmission, Intelligent 4WD; 19-City 23-Highway MPG; \$29,380.00 MSRP

changes go more than skin deep. Mercury has reduced the overall NVH (noise, vibration and harshness) levels 12 percent on the highway by using thicker side glass, tweaking the size and staggering the recessed roof channels, increasing the carpet thickness by 50 percent and even

moving the alternator to the other side of the engine.

The Mercury Mariner's five-passenger cabin is impressive. A host of features elevate the level of sophistication inside. Satin Pewter finishes and chrome accents give the Mariner an upscale look. There are new seats, door trim panels, A-

and B-pillar trims, center console and a new floor-mounted shifter. Signaling a new direction for Mercury interior design, the 2008 Mariner is the first Mercury to debut these innovative interior features

We evaluated the V6 Premier Mariner, which has a 3.0-liter engine with 4-speed automatic transmission. Properly equipped, the V6 Mariner can tow up to 3500 pounds.

The V6 Mariner isn't exactly slow, but its 10-second 0-60 mph time is bested by many rivals in this segment. Fuel economy with the V6 is also below average.

The 2008 Mercury Mariner is one of the first Ford Motor Company vehicles to use speed-sensitive Electric Power Steering (ESP), a sophisticated system that improves the overall steering feel and is more efficient than

traditional systems.

Antilock brakes, a tire-pressure monitor, traction control, stability control, front seat side airbags and full-length head curtain airbags with a rollover sensor are all standard on the 2008.

A reverse-sensing parking system comes with the Premier, earning it an overall average 5-star safety rating.

The enhanced interior and exterior redesign elements of the 2008 Mercury Mariner earns points with this reviewer. The lackluster power and average fuel efficiency may leave budget-conscious buyers unimpressed.

To those consumers, the Mariner Hybrid may be just the ticket. The 2008 Mercury Mariner is a sophisticated, lullaby-quiet-sweet-ride, and is worth a closer look.

THIS WEEK'S QUOTE

Spiritual life depends on the purposes we cherish. — Charles Spurgeon

RELIGION



Evangelist Melanie Pichon-Smith performs as guest revivalist at last week's "Ingredients of a Spiritual Women."



Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church Pastor Rev. Dr. Johnny Pack IV hosts an annual Women's Revival.

PHOTOS BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Women's Revival at Fellowship Missionary

"Ingredients of a Spiritual Woman" was the theme of last week's women's revival at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church in north Portland.

There are a lot of challenges facing women of all walks of life during these trying times and the revival was a time to embrace and celebrate every sister in atten-

dance. Guest revivalist was Evangelist Melanie Pichon-Smith of New Orleans, La., a member of Dominion and Power Ministries in

Harvey, La., pastured by Bishop Jerry Henry Sr.

Pichon-Smith is founder of an outreach ministry called Forgiven. Her compassion for the Gospel

began early in life during Sunday school. She has been preaching since 1989 both near and far. Her concern for sisters and the many faults and failures that plague

them is the focal point of her ministry.

Pichon-Smith knows what it is like to feel as though your past will never allow you to have a future.

Obituaries

In Loving Memory

Dante' LeVance Joe

Memorial services were held June 9 in Leavenworth, Kan., and June 12 at Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel in Portland for Dante' LaVance Joe, who died June 6, 2007 at the age of 26.

He was born a military baby on March 29, 1981 in Riverside, Calif., the son of Darren and Terri (Gulledge) Joe, and moved to Portland when he was 9 years old.

He attended Fernwood Elementary then went on to graduate from Grant High School in 1999. Dante' also attended high school in Seattle, where he enjoyed track and field and football.

Dante' was loved by friends and family and could always make you

laugh. He will be sorely missed.

Preceding him in death was an uncle Randy. He is survived by his daughter Diasia; companion

Tynesha; mother and father; sister Ashleigh; grandparents Sam and Doris Gulledge and Darnell and Erma Joe; aunts Genell, Cherry, Betty, Kay Frances, Linda, Donna, Denise and Vanessa; uncles Thomas, Ricky, Jerry, Dwayne and Darnell;

best friends Leonard, Michelle, Mikie and Theresa; cousins Shameka, Kevin, J.J., Myesha, Jatelle, Jalacia, Sierra, Sean, Darnell, Darrell, Dana, Danielle, Rose Bill, Chelsea and Alphonse; and a host of other friends and family in Portland and Kansas.



People Loved Her Cooking

Sarah Howard Cole

Funeral services were held last Friday at the Church of the Living God in northeast Portland for Sarah Howard Cole, who died June 8, 2007 at the age of 55.

She was born Sept. 24, 1951 to the proud parents Clyde and Jimmie Lee Howard in Cailon, Ark.

She was preceded in death by her father and baby Ibrahim. She leaves to mourn her husband;

three sons and a daughter; her mother Jimmie L. Parker; four brothers, Rev. Roy G. Maxi (Jeannie), Bill R. Maxie (Lisa), Athern K. Wilson and Danny C. Wilson; a sister Charlotte Yvonne Martin (David); two grandsons Jovondre' Cole and Izaiah Cole; a host of uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews and many wonderful friends.

Arrangements entrusted by Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel.



Booker T. Moreland

Services for Booker T. Moreland, who was born Feb. 6, 1936 and died June 17, 2007 will be held Saturday, June 23 at Genesis Fellowship Church, Northeast 27th Avenue and Killingsworth Street.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Building Goodwill

Officer Grant Shirahama signs his autograph for Harvey Scott Elementary student Aaron Herrera, while Principal Dianne Froehlich grabs a bite to eat at Thursday's free pizza day with members of the Portland Police Bureau. The year end event was made possible by donations and was the last of several pizza days at area schools organized by Radio Cab driver David Yandell (center). "If the kids were leery or ambivalent of the officers before, they're in love with them after we're done," Yandell said.

Coach, Mentor and Role Model Remembered

Sevedious "Vedi" Simington

Funeral services for Sevedious "Vedi" Simington, who died June 11, 2007 at the age of 57, will be held Thursday, June 21 at 1 p.m. at New Song Community Church, 2611 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

He was born March 20, 1950 in Portland to Birl Governor and Mamie Lee Simington of Arkansas. He attended Elliott Elementary School, Washington High School, Mt. Hood Community College, Warner Pacific College and Portland State

University. He earned an associate's degree and a bachelor's degree in science education.

He had a very spiritual heart and believed that God wanted him to serve his community through basketball. He loved the sport but he loved developing the skills of children who played in the various leagues even more. He was not only a coach but a mentor, role model, advisor, counselor, father figure and friend. His work can be seen in the lives of the hundreds of kids that partici-



pated in leagues at Matt Dishman Community Center, Saturday Basketball, "Can Jam" Holiday Food Drive and the AAU Junior Olympic League.

Columbia City; two grandchildren Ja-Juan Mikel Bennett of Las Vegas and Shakira Smith of Portland; 10 brothers and sisters Rosie Simington-Thompson, Carl, Birl, Lewis, Gene, Janice, Betty, Barbara, Tony, Sylvester and Timothy; brother-in-law Ural Thompson; sister-in-law Linda Simington and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and dedicated friends.

Arrangements by Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel.

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