

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2007 BMW X3 3.0si 'Baby-Ute' More Than Just Cute

By KATHLEEN CARR

The BMW X3 enters its fourth year of production flush with success, but there's more competition than ever in the smaller, more fuel-efficient SUVs. BMW's response is a stronger engine and revised styling with more safety features, standard equipment and options.

Under the hood is where things get interesting, with the X3 getting BMW's new magnesium alloy straight-six 3.0-liter engine. Badged as 3.0si to distinguish it from the previous-generation motor, the new engine turns out an impressive 260-hp and 225 lb-ft torque and is paired with a six-speed Steptronic automatic transmission, a no-cost option. Power reaches the road via BMW's xDrive all-wheel-drive system, which sends 60 percent of torque to the rear wheels under normal conditions but can vary this proportion according to where the grip is available.

As with other BMW models we've experienced, the new motor

impresses in the X3, thanks to its combination of decent low-down response and a real enthusiasm for revs. If anything, the official 7.1-seconds 0-60 mph time feels slightly slower than what we experienced behind the wheel, passing moves are dispatched with the clinical precision of a surgeon.

For those who are comfortable driving at the limit, the Dynamic Stability Control now includes, for the first time in a BMW SUV, Dynamic Traction Control. A button lets the driver choose a higher threshold of wheel-slip before DSC engages. Though this technique is good for starting off on loose snow, it can also be used to turn the X3 into even more of a driving machine.

The X3 is one of the best-driving SUVs on the market, thanks to accurate steering and committed cornering responses. The chassis has been softened slightly in response to criticism of the earlier models, offering a sometimes harsh ride. There is definitely



Specifications: 3.0-Liter 24-Valve Inline 6-Cylinder 260-hp @ 225 lb-ft torque engine; 6-Speed Steptronic Automatic Transmission; 19-City 26-Highway MPG \$44,800. MSRP

better bump absorption than before.

The 2007 X3 3.0si makeover is more than just a new badge. Most noticeable is the new front bumper that frames a new, slightly larger twin-kidney grille, its chrome vertical slats complemented by a chrome strip along the base of the

side windows. The new headlamp assembly no longer includes the DOT amber reflector, which has been moved to the fender to give the light cluster a cleaner look, with the fog lights having been moved into the bumper and the Cold Weather package with its headlight washers now retracting into the bumper.

For 2007, the revised interior uses new materials that are meant to upgrade the look and feel, and for the most part the effort paid off, providing a very comfortable, yet more refined ambience for the 'ultimate driving' experience. Upgrades include a new three-spoke steering wheel, more finely grained dashboard

materials, a new look around the gauge cluster with the instrument hood integrated into the dash and the door panels and armrests wrapped in leather.

BMW carefully positioned the navigational system, rotating up out of the top center of the dash, so it's visible to driver and navigator but nestled unobtrusively halfway down in the recess where it stows when not in use, however we found the navigational system to still need some fine tuning for ease of use while driving.

As with all BMWs, the 2007 X3 3.0si is loaded with standard safety features including a full array of airbags. The upgraded braking system now integrates Brake Drying, Brake Standby, Start-Off Assistant and Brake Fade Compensation. The adaptive brake lights signal the urgency with which the driver has pressed the brake pedal and a new tire pressure monitor replaces the flat tire monitor.

The 2007 BMW X3 3.0si is hard to beat for people who want BMW's heritage, looks, powertrain and packaging, but desire the flexibility of a sport-activity vehicle. In this reviewer's opinion, this 'baby-ute' is more than just cute!

RELIGION

Neighborhood Festival

Augustana Lutheran Church, 2710 N.E. 14th Ave., near Knott Street, celebrates "Summer in the City," a free outdoor celebration on Sunday, Aug. 5 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The community is invited to attend and enjoy some great jazz music with Ron Steen and the vocals of Marilyn Keller.

For more information, call the church at 503-288-6174.



Ron Steen

True Vine Missionary Musical

The music ministry at True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, 4737 N. Commercial Ave., presents its 4th annual Outdoor Musical on Saturday, Aug. 4 at 3 p.m.

The community is invited to join guest choirs, soloists and

groups to Make a Joyful Noise: Psalms 10: 1-2 and celebrate God's word in song.

There will be hot dogs, chili dogs and soft drinks available for a small donation.

For more information, call Faye Wilder-Inniss at 503-875-5144.

Dear Deanna!

My family is giving me problems over money. I inherited several thousand dollars and now everyone has a sob story, cars breaking down and household issues. Most of these people have never visited me at my home nor thought of me during the holidays. I have had arguments with my parents, my cousins and everyone and I can't take it no more. I want to put my foot down and say no to everybody that's begging but I'm afraid of isolating myself. What do I do? --Miserable with Money; Omaha, Neb.

Dear Miserable:

It's amazing how friends and family members can smell money but don't know you when you're broke. You need to take care of your family first, make a donation to your church and invest what's left. If you have a giving spirit after taking care of your priorities, then be loving and give a few of your close family members a savings bond with love

Ask Deanna!



Real People, Real Advice

An advice column known for reality based subjects!

and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I am tired of the hustle and flow of relationships. The dating game is so played out and overrated that I have exhausted my hopes of finding a husband. I cook and clean and do all the domestic things and work full-time. It seems that men aren't attracted to me. What am I possibly doing wrong and why can't men see that I'm a total package? --Clarice; Chicago

Dear Clarice:

You need to get off of the "me, me, me" trip and start focusing on what

you can bring to a relationship and form a loving partnership. Your boast of cooking and cleaning isn't impressive because there are many services out there that will come and do these things. You need to demonstrate relationship qualities such as trust, integrity, and loyalty and be willing to be part of a team. Men aren't seeing you as a total package and they'll continue to look at you like a ribbon on a box if you don't change your thinking.

Dear Deanna!

I was at the mall with my friends and they got caught stealing. Lucky for me, I had to go to the car to get some change when everything was happening in the store. They were caught on camera and were arrested. When the cops got there, they tried to pull me into it but the cops didn't agree with them because I was outside. My friends are now trying to get me to lie and they've turned against me. Have I

made the right decision by staying away from them? --Anonymous; On-line Reader

Dear Anonymous:

Birds of a feather stick together and it's to your advantage that you're not viewed as a thief or a liar. If these are your friends, then you need to think about doing better. You should not lose any sleep but be thankful your guardian angel was watching out for you and you avoided this drama. If these are true friends they'll be mature enough to realize they have to pay for their actions, if not, you don't need them and should keep rolling.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com. Ask Deanna! can be heard every Sunday on KTYM AM 1460 at 3:00pm in Los Angeles, CA.

Obituaries

Hattie Smith

Sept. 29, 1907 - July 14, 2007

Hattie (Sims) Smith was born in White Rock, Texas on Sept. 29, 1907, the youngest of five children born to Elizabeth (Craven) Sims and Elzie Howard Sims.

She and her brothers and sisters, Albert, Lucille, Effie and Elizabeth, grew up in a different period of time. Her older brother and sisters picked cotton to maintain their family land. Hattie was nurtured by her grandmother Craven, while her mother worked in a factory to meet the family's needs after her father left.

Hattie's education was cut short in grammar school and she went to work with her older cousin, Beauty Knox, who taught her the value of hard work, honesty and a good reputation. In addition to ironing, cooking, and housecleaning, they opened a restaurant specializing in hamburgers, chili, potato pies and egg custards.

It was at this time that Hattie had a son, Joseph Lee Daniels, and Cousin Beauty took over the responsibility of raising Joseph while Hattie continued to run the restaurant business.

Due to the pressures of never-ending work and long days, Hattie felt it was time to venture into a new beginning. In 1937, at 20 years of age, she traveled to Longview, Wash. to live with her sister, Lucille Hart.

She found employment in Longview and met and married Calvin Aubrey Smith and they welcomed their first child, Barbara Jean, in 1938. They moved to Salem in 1939, where Cal found work as an apprentice shoe repairman. Later he completed his apprenticeship and established his own business, Cal's Shoe Shop in West Salem. They had their second daughter, Carol Lucille, in 1940.

Both of their girls grew up in Salem and experienced many good times, but also, some difficult times with racial discrimination (1940-1960). Both girls attended Salem schools and went on to attend Willamette University in Salem and Oregon College of Education in Monmouth before Barbara graduated from University of Washington and Seattle University; and Carol from Colorado University and University of Northern Colorado.

Hattie was loved and respected by everyone she came into contact with. She loved to cook and her life in the kitchen, with the aroma of her fresh baked breads and pies, will be greatly missed.

Her extended family included the Freeman, Smith and Fisher families in Longview, the Oliver Smith, Lillian Williams and Orval/Ethel Payne families in Portland and the Bud Smith family in Corvallis.

Funeral services were held July 18 in Denver, Colo., with burial at Longview Memorial Park in Longview on Friday, July 20.



Flora Vaenticille Cooke

June 3, 1931 - May 27, 2007

Family and friends of Ms. Flora Vaenticille Cooke will celebrate her life on Sunday, July 29 at McMenamin Kennedy School in northeast Portland in the Martha Jordan room from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Ms. Cooke moved to Portland more than 30 years ago with her husband George Player. She pursued a nursing career at Good Samaritan Hospital before joining Tri Met in 1974 as a customer service representative. She retired in 1993, but remained an active member of the Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 757.

As a founding board member of the Portland chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, Ms. Cooke encouraged community residents to become educated voters. She treasured her right to vote.

She was an active member at Portland's Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church for many years and when she returned to her childhood home in Sylacauga, Ala. in 1995, she re-united with the Pine Grove Baptist Church where she served as a Sunday school and Missionary teacher.

After a short illness, Ms. Cooke departed this life early Sunday morning, May 27, 2007.

She leaves to cherish her memory: two sons, Charles (Alberta) and Donnie of Sylacauga; two sisters, Patricia (Lionel) Player of Sylacauga and Mary Price of Atlanta; two brothers, Minuard and Ralph (Mamie) of Portland; seven grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and a host of other nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

For more information about Sunday's special celebration, call 503-284-1044.



LeRoy Williams

Nov. 23 1933 - July 23, 2007

LeRoy Williams is survived by his children, Iesha, Larry, Kamaui and Yolanda Williams; stepchildren, Kathleen, Tina, Charles and Richard Mitchell; grandchildren, Allazuwon, Amya, Marcus, Marsel, Marshe, Demeka, Danzel, Zachary, Isaiah and Angelique; and one great grandchild.

He will be truly missed. We love you dad!



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