Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2008 Dodge **Caliber SRT4**

Primal Instinct

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The basic recipe has been a Chrysler cookbook favorite through several management regimes, foreign and domestic. It goes like this: Take one small basic-transportation appliance. Add boost. Cook to taste. Presto!

The folks at Chrysler's Street and Racing Technology (SRT) organization must love what they do because it shows in every one of their creations. Every SRT vehicle like the all-new 285-horsepower 2008 Dodge Caliber SRT4, showcases five key attributes; exterior styling that resonates with brand image, race-inspired interior characteristics, benchmark braking and standout powertrain.

unquestionably delivers in all five display nicely behind the alloy areas. This isn't merely a gussied- wheels. up, more powerful Caliber. It is obviously so much more than that.

A key ingredient in SRT's performance recipe is benchmark braking. Up front the SRT4 features 340 by 28 millimeter vented rotors with 57 millimeter twin-piston aluminum calipers. In the rear, the rotors measure 302 by 10 millimeter and the calipers feature a single 35 millimeter piston. All calipers are painted this pocket rockets American-made



Specifications: 2.4-liter, 4-cylinder, 16-valve, 285-hp@265 lb-ft torque, I-4 Turbo World Engine; 6-Speed Manual Transmission; 21-City 26-Highway MPG; \$24,360. MSRP

fun begins. The 2008 Dodge Caliber SRT4 is powered by a 2.4-liter has the heart and power of a V-8 turbocharged four-cylinder engine that produces a whopping 285torque. Its 0-60 mph time is just 5.9 seconds, and it tops out at 155 mph. You really need a racetrack to fully rather heavy. The firm, high-perfor- accented by 19-inch alloy wheels appreciate and enjoy the power of

such a high-performance model, at Under the hood is where the real 21-city and 26-highway mpg.

> except that it's a four-cylinder. That muscle is sent to the front wheels speed manual transaxle.

dent handling but causes a jumpy tires.

The 2008 Dodge Caliber SRT4 in signature Dodge SRT red and street racing performance. Esti-ride on broken or wavy pavement. mated fuel economy isn't bad for The SRT4 has definite torque steer incorporates a functional scoop when accelerating hard, but it's held down by the brake differential, low-The 2008 Dodge Caliber SRT4 ered ride height, and equal-length tractors that exhaust hot air. halfshafts delivering power to the

I also like the lower, hunkered Steering is extremely quick, but The athletic appearance is further cool the brakes.

The aggressively-styled hood that brings cooling air into the engine compartment and a pair of ex- flipped forward, and it has a wide

The muscular-toned front fascia is unique; it needed to be modified SRT4 is a winning recipe by the to accommodate the turbocharged horsepower and 265 pound-feet through a slick-shifting Getrag six- down look. The suspension has engine's intercooler. Also, the fas- hit the road hard and fast. Enthusibeen dropped in the front and rear. cia includes ducts to direct air to asts are sure to like the aggressive

> mance suspension provides confi- wrapped in Goodyear performance muscular theme and it's accented by a single, 4-inch exhaust tip that bang-for-the-buck bargain!

exits from the right side. The rear spoiler, which is nearly 60 percent larger than that on the standard Dodge Caliber, is tuned for smoother air flow and increased downforce.

Unique SRT touches include sport seating with aggressive bolstering and performance fabric inserts to hold occupants during spirited driving, and a leatherwrapped steering wheel. Curtain side air bags are standard, but front side air bags are optional. Other options include navigation system and polished wheels.

Audiophiles will appreciate the available Kicker high-performance audio system with 13 speakers in seven locations, powered by a 322watt amplifier and 200-watt subwoofer. After all when you are blazing down the road - you gotta have your tunes.

The 2008 Dodge Caliber SRT4 is a high-performance hatchback designed for the high-performance lifestyles of today's families. The Caliber SRT4 has a large cargo area, especially with the rear seatbacks opening for easy access.

The all-new 2008 Dodge Caliber STR team with a primal instinct to look and feel of the Caliber SRT4; The rear fascia continues the coupled with a sticker price just under \$25K it is definitely a more-

Concordia University Builds Community Ties



community events (e.g. Mayor Tom Liberian President Ellen Johnson tunities to our students.' Sirleaf Community Lecture, Sam and community use of facilities (e.g. NAACP, Oregon Food Bank, Metropolitan Alliance for the Common Good, Young Leaders of Color).

"Concordia University is committed to working as a partner with ceive financial aid. the community to strengthen north cation, at a crossroads of communi- or public university in Oregon.

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tions to pay for his memorial service. If you can

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over to Heaven on Jan. 26, 2008. He was born Sept.

ties where affluence and poverty intersect, enriches our opportunities to provide service to the com-Potter Neighborhood Summit, munity and service learning oppor-

Johnson Scholarship Banquet); Concordia has grown over 60 per- tend Concordia. cent with over 1,600 students starting classes this past fall. Over 50 the Oregon Community Founda- of Liberia visited campus last spring, percent of Concordia students are tion, Concordia began awarding the first from their family to attend three four-year full-ride scholarcollege and nearly 90 percent re- ships to a student from the SEI the university.

and northeast Portland," said Presidiversity of experiences and student entering in fall '08 and an- Concordia's admissions standent Chuck Schlimpert. "Our out- ethnicities; approximately 20 perreach efforts, like this award, are cent of Concordia's undergradugrounded in Concordia's mission ate students come from ethnically also awarded \$30,000 in scholar- scholarship should contact to prepare leaders for the transfor- diverse backgrounds, among the mation of society. Concordia's lo- highest percentage of any private

one of a number of scholarships

Starting this past fall, through program. One award was given in Concordia students represent a fall '07; one will be awarded to a terested in the award must meet other entering in fall '09.

scholarship was established by the ckrueger@cu-portland.edu.

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Finally, when President Sirleaf Concordia created a scholarship for a Liberian student to study at

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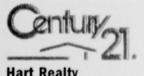
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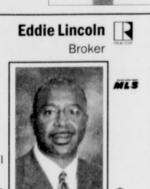
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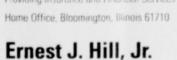
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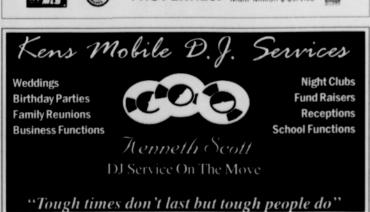


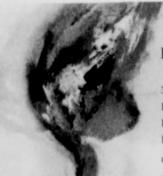
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