Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2008 Volvo XC 70 3.2 AWD The Family Adventure Vehicle

BY KATHLEEN CARR

ily adventure vehicle."

Traction and Volvo's first use of to secure loads. Hill Descent Control.

the tacked-on side cladding, re- you'll find at a Senate hearing, and

placed by a more streamlined treat-The XC70 is Volvo's rugged ment covering the molded bumpers SUV-like wagon that has been re- and lower door panels. Volvo has designed for 2008 with more ag- also lowered the rear glass beyond gressive styling to go with its repu- that of the side windows for better tation as a capable off-road vehicle, visibility and integrated the tailwhile also adding a higher level of lights into the tailgate to create a luxury. Volvocalls the XC70 a "fam-wider opening. An aggressive front fascia adds a sporty feel to the The redesigned 2008 Volvo XC70 XC70's demeanor, while helpful feais offered for the first time with a 3.2- tures such as an optional power liter inline 6-cylinder engine 235- tailgate confirm the XC70's premium horsepower and 236 lb-ft of torque luxury-car status. Cargo space has combined with a 6-speed been increased over the previous "Geartronic" automatic transmis- generation with an innovative hook sion, all-wheel drive with Instant and track system in the cargo area

Safety, of course, is one of The 2008 Volvo XC70 touts a Volvo's claims to fame. Sounding stylish yet rugged exterior. Gone is the cabin are more airbags than



Specifications: 3.2-Liter, 235-hp @ 236 lb-ft torque, In-Line 6-Cylinder Engine; 6-Speed automatic transmission; 15-City 22-Highway MPG; \$44,065. MSRP

booster seats in the outward rear Les Whitworth C.P.A. 5421 NE 33rd Avenue

seats. Integrated into the car's sub- matic transmission with manual barely detectable from inside the rious premium-brand panache, nor structure is way more high-strength mode makes up for the lack of grunt car. steel than in any previous model nicely. Towing capacity is a readding to the weight and the exceps spectable 3,300 pounds. Volvo's a six-speed automatic transmission crossover SUV is more car than you tional crashworthiness. Chassis 3.2-liter in-line six is a strong en- and Instant Tractionall-wheel drive. care for, and you don't require threedynamics the equal of any gine, but delivers only acceptable But, again, this is not an SUV de-row seating, the all-new XC70's artmanufacturer's keep the car going performance in the 4,000-plus signed for serious off-roading. ful blend of beauty and brawn (not straight and under control no mat- pound XC70. Off-the-line accelera- Leave dry pavement, and the to mention safety) make it ideal for ter what the conditions. Collision tion is brisk, but passing power XC70's attitude changes. It is, how-the active family's lifestyle.

safety features include integrated help the driver stay out of trouble. economy is good for this class and The competent 6-speed auto- engine noise and vibration are mostrivals can't match Volvo's luxu-

somewhat smarter ones as well. New and blind spot warning systems could be better. On the flip side, fuel

ever, particularly adept at handling rough back roads.

Despite its rugged exterior, the 2008 Volvo XC70's interior is elegant and comfortable. The interior features a good measure of Scandinavian style and finesse. Seats are well bolstered but not overly firm. Controls are intuitive and laid out well. Materials are of good quality and good looking as well. Volvo's new signature open-back center console adds a touch of style not usually associated with the family wagon. Families who have outgrown child safety seats will appreciate the optional two-stage child booster seats (rear outboard seating), which allow young children a higher perch, putting them within coverage of the side-curtain airbags.

Volvo's XC70 wagon occupies a big place in a very small field. Rugged wagons capable of off-road ventures are few and far between can it equal the XC70's long list of Every 2008 Volvo XC70 features standard and optional features. If a

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Calendar

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Cycle of Life Festivals

Friday, Feb. 29 through Monday, March 3, Portland Japanese Gardens, 611 S.W. Kingston Dr. will host the Hina Matsuri, or the Doll Festival. Call 503-542-0280 to learn more.



Festival of African Films

The Portland Community College's Cascade Festival of African Films takes place all month the PCC Cascade campus in north Portland and at the Hollywood and McMenamins Kennedy School theaters. For a complete schedule, visit the Cascade Festival of African Films website at africanfilmfesitval.org.

Learn to Make Recycled Art

Portland Community College is offering the hands-on training to create art from recycled materials; classes will be held at the ReBuilding Center, 3625 N. Mississippi Ave.

Call 503-731-6622 for more information.

Kindergarten, Pre-Kindergarten Roundup

Wednesday, Feb. 27, King School, 4037 N.E. Garfield, will host the annual kindergarten and pre-K roundup at 1:30 p.m., in the school library; both programs are full-day and fully funded programs

International Fair

Thursday, March 6, from 6 to 8 p.m., PSU Capstone program and King School, 4037 N.E. Garfield, will celebrate the diversity of many different cultures through information booths featuring student art, music, a wide variety of foods and prize drawings.

Helping the Hungry

The Oregon Food Bank desp rately needs your donations of nonperishable toods and funds. To find out how you can help, call 503-282-0555.

Literacy Volunteers Needed

Community College's Cascade Campus needs volunteer tutors to provide free individualized instruction in basic English-language and math skills. For more information, call 503-244-3898 or visit oregonliteracy.org.

African American Council

You're invited on the third Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. when the African American Advisory Council meets at the King Facility, 4815 N.E. Seventh Ave. Call 503-823-0000 for more information.

Bradley-Angle House

The Bradley-Angle House needs volunteers to help its outreach against domestic violence. Women of color and bilingual women are encouraged to call. For more information, call 503-282-9940.

Volunteer for Crisis Line

Want to make a difference in your community? Volunteers and advocates are needed for the Portland Women's Crisis Line. The needs include on-call advocates to respond in person or over the phone, outreach and educational efforts, and fundraising and administrative duties. Call 503-232-4176 for more information.

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 information, call 503-570-6614.

Community Support

The African American Health Coalition, a nonprofit that touches the lives of millions of African Americans each year, reminds you to support your community organization. All donations, grants and gifts are tax deductible. For more information, visit aahc-portland.org.



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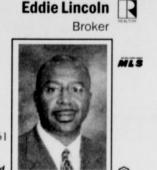
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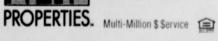
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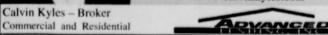


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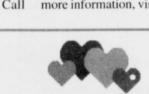
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