

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2008 Dodge
Dakota Extended
Cab Sport 4x4

The new 2008 Dodge Dakota Extended Cab Sport 4x4 comes standard with a 3.7-liter Magnum V-6 engine producing 210 horsepower and 235 lb.-ft. of torque. The engine also comes with Electronic Throttle Control for positive throttle response, and exhaust gas recirculation to help lower emissions. For each of its three generations since 1987, Dodge's Dakota has always been the plus-size model among compact and mid-size trucks, with the all new V-8 engine gives Dodge the edge from its competitors in the midsize range.

The new 4.7-liter V-8 offers better fuel economy, power and torque than the previous 4.7-liter High Output engine, while at the same time delivering improvements in refinement. The new 4.7-liter V-8 incorporates two spark plugs per cylinder (the only Chrysler Group engine to do so, other than the 5.7-liter HEMI), increased compression ratio, improved cylinder-head port flow and a new combustion system. The result is 290 horsepower, a 25 percent increase; and 320 lb.-ft. of torque, a 10



Specifications: 4.7V-8 engine; Five-Speed Automatic Transmission; 14 City 19 Highway MPG \$34,175MRSP

percent increase. The new engine is also capable of operating on E85 ethanol fuel, making the Dodge Dakota equipped with this engine a Flexible Fuel Vehicle.

The new 2008 Dodge Dakota may be equipped with a transfer case featuring two-wheel drive or four-wheel drive with

locked high and low ranges, or an available transfer case with full-time four-wheel drive as well as selections for locked high and low ranges. For more capability when traction is at a premium.

In addition to more power for the Dakota's V-8, an imperative for Dodge

engineers was to devise ways to make the ride smoother. They responded with revisions to the springs and shock tuning, as well as removal of the rear anti-roll bar. As a result, the ride indeed has become fantastically plush, but as you might imagine, turning response has

slowed in equal measure. Body roll is notable, as are acceleration squat and brake dive. The steering has become almost dangerously spongy, and the brakes are nearly as imprecise.

The Dakota front end is where the dramatic transformation has taken place. Gone is the choppy, flattened nose, to a more fetching, more refined, and decidedly handsomer mug, one that recalls the cheeky smugness of the first- and second-generation Dakotas. Slight differences exist between trim levels, but none are ugly. The 2008 Dodge Dakota is better aligned with the rest of the Dodge truck lineup.

Dodge gave the Dakota a face-lift up front. Rectangular headlights are the most noticeable change, but the hood, bumper and grille are new, too. There are changes to the interior as well, like a new center console, revised gauges and improved finishes. Don't expect to be impressed with the upgrades, however, as we can barely tell the difference. The rear sitting in the extended cab does not offer any leg room for the rear passenger even for those under feet. The airflow in the rear of the extended cab is lacking as well as the ability to open the rear windows even just as a vented window would be great.

Obituaries

In Loving Memory

Donnie E. Hall

Funeral services for Donnie E. Hall who died on June 21, 2008, were held Saturday, July 5 at First A.M.E. Church, 4304 N. Vancouver Ave.

She was born May 25, 1937 in Portland, the daughter of Robert Benjamin Williams Jr. and Elizabeth Roberson.

She gave birth to five children: John Anthony Hall, Terri Elizabeth Barron, Teddy Wayne Hall, Todd Allen Hall (who passed away when he was only five weeks old) and Tyanne Elaine Farmer. She later adopted one more child, a son, Anthony Christian Hall who was just two days old when she received him.

She had many talents and loved all her children equally.

Her first husband John Wilson Hall and second husband Joe Huke preceded her in death.

She leaves to mourn, her children; a sister Rose; sister-in-law Yvonne; cousin Barbara; mother-in-law Althea; 11 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, and a host of other relatives, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Arrangements by Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel.



An Angel with Miles of Style

Christa Belle Mullen

Christa Belle Mullen was born Oct. 20, 1946 in Portland, the first born of James Wilson Sr. and Anna Belle Veazie Wilson.

Her education began at Sitton Elementary school and she graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1964 where she met her future husband Percy Mullen.

On June 10, 1966, the couple was joined in holy matrimony and to this union was born two beautiful children, Serena and Tyrone Mullen.

Christa worked for Tektronics, where she retired on March 14 after 30 plus years. She was very creative and chose several ways to display her wonderful talents, by developing her own business called "Creations by Christa" as an interior decorating consultant.

She was a connoisseur of food and a great cook. She loved the finer things in life, which was quite apparent in her home, clothes and the car she drove. But even with her miles of style, she would never leave home without her bedroom slippers.

She was involved with two social clubs, Bubbling Brown Sugar and the 60s Sisters.

She loved the Lord and was baptized at an early age.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her daughter and son; a brother,



James M. Wilson Jr.; three grandchildren, Dupree Williams, JerRayah Weatherspoon and Tajanae Mullen; a God mother Helen Sam of Los Angeles; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family and friends.

Preceding her in death was her loving husband, and her father and mother.

Although God has called her home, the story is not yet over; for in our presence lies an angel who has put on her robe, and traded in her earthly slippers for a heavenly crown, and is now waiting to tell the story of how she made it.

Services were scheduled on Wednesday, July 9 at Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church.

Arrangements by Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel.

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Lived Life to the Fullest

Roderick Wilkerson

Services for Roderick Wayne Wilkerson were held Saturday, July 5, at Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel.

He was born on July 10, 1961 to Verlan and Nathaniel Wilkerson in San Francisco. He attended Sanchez Elementary and Everett Junior High and graduated from Lincoln High School. He also attended Bishop College in Texas for a brief period of time.



He was a man who lived life to the fullest and will serve God to the fullest. He was raised in the church before straying away but one thing is for certain, he knew God.

Preceding him in death was his father and his great grandparents Lucille Ward and JB Ward.

He leaves to mourn, his mother; grandmother Gladys; uncle John; aunt Inez Wilkerson; companion Lavern Calvin-Brewer; and other relatives, cousins and friends. He will be missed dearly by all.

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