

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2009 KIA Borrego EX 4X4

Timing is Everything

BY KATHLEEN CARR

Kia's all-new 2009 Borrego is named for a desert in Southern California. It arrives at a time when both meanings describe the climate that greets it.

"Kia has never been in this segment before," said Tom Lovell, the marketing vice president. "We used to be always the second car in the driveway. This gives us a chance to be the first."

The Kia Borrego is an all-new midsize SUV that features rugged body-on-frame construction, and fully independent front and rear suspension. Its muscular looks are backed up by an available V8 engine, a first for Kia.

We've gone over the V-8-powered 2009 Kia Borrego with a fine-tooth comb and picked at every nit. The jury has returned, and the verdict is in: The Borrego is a great midsize SUV that suffers from bad timing.

At any other point in the last several years, Kia's first-ever V8, would have raised eyebrows with its appearance in the 2009 Kia

Borrego. Dual overhead cams and variable valve timing help the Kia V8 squeeze a stout 337 horsepower and 323 pound-feet of torque from just 4.6 liters. And the V8 Borrego 4x4's 7,500-pound towing rating trumps its competitors by a clear margin. Trouble is, this performance recipe isn't very popular right now.

It's unfortunate because the South Korean manufacturer has produced an exceptional first effort in a segment in which it has not competed. The company views that as a reason for optimism because each sale is a plus it would not have otherwise.

Surprisingly, the impressive power and towing capability in evidence here does not prevent the 2009 Kia Borrego from being more frugal with fuel than its full-frame SUV competition. These seemingly conflicting, personal-ity traits are resolved thanks to the fitment of a six-speed automatic transmission.

Perhaps due to the use of an independent rear suspension, the Borrego doesn't ride as high as many truck-based SUVs do, which makes it look more like a crossover. Upscale touches on the



Specifications: 4.6-Liter, 32-Valve DOHC, 337-hp @ 323 lb.-ft. torque, V-8 engine; 6-Speed Automatic transmission; 4-Wheel Drive w/ 3-Mode Selection; 15-City, 20-Highway MPG; \$39,295. MSRP

Borrego include body-colored side mirrors with integrated turn-signal lights, aluminum roof rails and chrome trim on the door handles, liftgate and grille. Eighteen-inch alloy wheels are an option claimed to increase

offroading capabilities.

Nevertheless, we particularly appreciate the Borrego's independent suspension because it makes room for a usable third-row seat that's fit for most adults. Don't worry about the cost, either; ev-

ery 2009 Kia Borrego comes standard with three-row seating.

Farther forward, our Borrego's control layout is logical and straightforward, and the level of materials in our EX trim level is of a surprisingly high grade, with

Kia showing a tasteful bit of restraint and going easy on the plastic chrome. Nighttime interior illumination in the cabin is similarly attractive and tasteful.

Standard and optional amenities include power-adjustable pedals, a rear sonar system and a backup camera. The stereo is an in-dash six-CD system from Infinity that includes USB and iPod connections and the option of Sirius Satellite Radio, a first in a Kia. Also a first for this brand is the optional navigation system. The rear window opens independent of the liftgate for quick or close-quarters access to the cargo area.

Safety features abound, including two-stage front airbags, side curtain airbags for all three rows of seats, antilock disc brakes, an electronic stability system with traction control, and offroad aids like downhill assist control and hill assist control.

If you want a sport-utility these days, you have to really be into sport and really need utility. So while there's a market for the 2009 Kia Borrego, it's just not a very big one. Timing is everything, and if you stay on the sidelines too long, you might enter the game with too little time on the clock to make an impact.

RELIGION

Mattress World Gives Back

Donation helps hungry

Mattress World President Sherri Hiner presented a check last week for more than \$63,445 to the Portland Police Sunshine Division, the money raised through Mattress World's Annual Charity Golf Tournament earlier this summer.

"The Mattress World family is

thrilled with the outcome of this year's tournament," said Hiner. "We know that this donation will be able to provide food to thousands of meals to Portland's families."

2008 marked the 5th annual Mattress World Charity Golf Tournament, held at Oregon City Golf Club at Lone Oak. Over the years, Mattress World has helped generate nearly \$500,000 for local charities.

The Portland Police Sunshine Division is a non-profit emergency food relief organization. The division maintains a civilian Board of Directors with the assistance of one officer paid for and supported by the Police Bureau.

The Division has been in operation since the early 1920's and continues to offer emergency food relief as a result of generous donations of food, cash and services from local businesses like

Mattress World and the general public.

Mattress World thanks Les Schwab Tires, Oregon City Golf Club at Lone Oak, Protect-A-Bed, Qdoba Mexican Grill, Safeway, Simmons, and West Coast Bank for their continued support of the charity golf tournament.

"We couldn't do this without our generous business partners in the community," said Hiner. "We are extremely thankful."

Irvington Covenant Church Pastor Retires

Pastor Henry Greenidge is retiring from Irvington Covenant Church after founding the multicultural and multiethnic church and leading it for 20 years.

A retirement celebration will be held Saturday, Sept. 27 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the church, located at 4008 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

There will be music from the Greenidge family, testimonials and words from the Irvington Covenant



Henry Greenidge

Church leadership.

Greenidge was born into a Christian family and raised in the Bronx, New York, where his father was a pastor. He is the oldest of eight children, most of whom are now involved in ministry. He attended Nyack Missionary College in upstate New York, where he received a Bachelor of Music degree and taught music in the New York public schools for two years. He also at-

tended Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif.

During his career he has used his gift of music and evangelism in the many areas in which he has served. He was the musical director for Tom Skinner Associates in the 70s. He served as Area Director for Young Life in Seattle before accepting a call to Maranatha Church in Portland to be the Associate Minister of Youth and Family.

Home Going Memorial Service Wilbert 'Herkey' LyDay

A Home Going Memorial Service for Wilbert "Herkey" LyDay was held on Sept. 11, 2008 at Sharon Seventh-Day Adventist Church.

He was born on Dec. 26, 1952 in Portland to Faye Evelyn LyDay and RC Morris. Raised by a single parent, he took pride in looking after his younger brothers and sisters. An outgoing, adventurous and spontaneous person, he made life-long friends.

As a youth, he was involved in many sports, including playing baseball in the Peninsula and Riverside Little Leagues. He attended King (Highland) School and went to both Adams and Jackson High

Schools before graduating from Jefferson in 1971. He also attended Portland State University.

He enjoyed traveling and played golf. He worked at FMC as a welder, and later for the City of Portland's Bureau of Water works as a draftsman. His pride and joy was his son Wilbert LyDay Jr. who changed his outlook on life.

Herkey met Felita in 2001 and they blissfully married in 2002. They were a devoted couple who enjoyed sharing their lives together.

He was most comfortable at home surrounded by family,



friends, and good food. He enjoyed a quieter life for its simplicity and ease. He attended New Beginnings Christian Center and later the Highland Christian Center.

He was known as a compassionate person who willingly put others first.

He died on Sept. 1, 2008 after suffering a massive heart attack on April 26, 2008.

His beloved mother preceded him in death. He leaves to cherish his memories, his wife and son; and his son's mother, Mildred (Cookie) Willingham; three sisters, Jean LyDay, Debra LyDay, Juanita

Singing was one of his Many Passions

Lawrence Lowe

Services were held Sept. 18 at New Hope Church for Lawrence Lowe who died Sept. 12.

He was born July 22, 1943, in Warren, Ark. to Sam and Dorris Lowe.

He attended Boise Elementary School and graduated from Jefferson High School in 1962.

He worked for Tektronix in Beaverton for 33 years. He loved to travel and going to the Oregon Coast. He was blessed with a beautiful natural voice and singing was one of his many passions. He sang in his elementary school choir and all four years at Jefferson. He also sang in several

doo-wop groups in his youth.

Coaching youth baseball and basketball was another passion of his and he coached for many years. He taught them how to play the game and the importance of sportsman. He loved gatherings with family and friends.

He was a hard working man who sometimes worked two part-time jobs while working a full time job. If anyone needed help, he would volunteer his services instantly, no matter if the job consisted of moving one piece of furniture of a whole house of furniture.

He was a good person and a good man. His family and friends

will miss him dearly.

Preceding him in death were his father and mother; brothers, William T. Spencer, Henry L. Lowe and Jessie Lowe; and granddaughter Andrea N. Butler.

He leaves behind three children, Angela Lowe of Los Angeles, Troy Lowe of Portland and Nina Roberts of Scottsdale, Ariz.; eight grandchildren; eight brothers and sisters, Wesley A. Lowe, Samuel Lowe, Lee Edwards, Edward D. Lowe, Robert L. Lowe, Patsy A. Griffin, Doris J. Lowe, Kenneth R. Lowe and Shirley L. Lowe, all of Portland; and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews. Arrangements by Cox and Cox.

Obituaries

Lewis; a brother, Robert LyDay; aunts, Rubie Franklin, Gladys Teague, and Jaunita Woods-Barnes (honorary mother); several nephews and nieces, cousins and other family and friends.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the American Heart Association. Arrangements by Terry Family Funeral Home.

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