

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2009 Nissan Rogue

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The Nissan Rogue is mostly unchanged for 2009. Upgrades include new doors that lock automatically when the Rogue hits a certain speed, a fold-down front passenger seat and a dual-level center console tray. "Overall, Rogue's competitors are quieter and more refined, but this compact Nissan gets points for sleek styling and high levels of interior functionality."

The engine is very responsive with its 2.5-liter four-cylinder powerplant producing 170 horses and 175 lb-ft of torque. It comes with four-wheel anti-lock braking, Electronic Brake force Distribution, Vehicle Dynamic Control and Traction Control to help control your emotional outbursts. The Rogue has more in common with the typical sedan than it does

with a truck. It has a unitized body and chassis with fully independent suspension, and it will be offered with front-wheel drive or single-range full-time all-wheel drive. In an impressionistic way, the Rogue looks something like the Murano.

The interior has a youthful look with a few helpful twists such as an auxiliary jack for iPods and large HUCA controls. The instrument panel is trendy, but the bright orange light from the gas gauge and the small fonts make them very difficult to read quickly. The tachometer and speedometer are about six inches and the fuel and temperature gauges two inches in diameter and reside in the middle of the instrument cluster and has a strange orange illumination. The seats are firm and need more lumbar and maybe a touch more padding, but overall they feel good.



Specifications: 2.5-liter DOHC 16-valve 4-cylinder engine; Xtronic CVT™ (Continuously Variable Transmission); 22 city mpg, 27 highway mpg; MSRP \$

Buyers will be able to outfit Rogue with luxury-grade amenities, including heated leather seats, xenon headlights, universal on-board garage door opener, and a Bluetooth wireless cellular phone interface with controls on the steering wheel hub. The optional Bose audio system features seven speakers and a powered subwoofer.

The Rogue's strengths are its pleasant on-pavement ride, good fuel economy and good value compared to the competition. However, it falls short on engine power because of its lack of a V6. Performance also falls in the so-so category, as we would want better fuel economy in exchange for its lack of power. But the continuously variable transmission gives its score a little boost. Finally, we like its design. The car looks good and offers a lot of practical room inside.

Churches Extend Invite to Obama Family

Many are easy walk from White House

(AP) -- Churches in the nation's capital have started extending invitations to President-elect Barack Obama and his family, touting their African-American roots, their ties to presidents past and to Obama himself.

The choices are abundant. Numerous, thriving congregations are an easy walk from 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Just across Lafayette Square from the White House is St. John's Church, an Episcopal parish known as the "Church of the Presidents," where presidents as far back as James Madison have worshipped. St. John's has a standing invitation: Pew 54 is the President's Pew, reserved for the nation's leader.

Or he could choose, as many presidents have done, not to attend services at all. President George W. Bush, for instance, has only infrequently attended services in Washington, occasionally going to St. John's.

Whatever choice the Obamas make, it is sure to be analyzed through the



President-elect Obama drops his daughters Malia (left) and Sasha, off at school in Chicago. At right is a U.S. Secret Service agent. (AP Photo)

prism of Obama's relationship with the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, who was Obama's pastor for 20 years at Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago. Obama resigned from Trinity during

the presidential campaign after inflammatory comments by Wright from the pulpit became a campaign issue.

Nick Shapiro, a spokesman for Obama's transition, declined to discuss

which church the Obamas might attend.

Obama has spoken frequently about the importance of his Christian faith. In his 2006 book, "The Audacity of Hope," he wrote that "the historically black church offered me a second insight: that faith doesn't mean that you don't have doubts, or that you relinquish your hold on this world. ... You needed to come to church precisely because you were of this world, not apart from it."

Despite those words, Obama has attended church sparingly in the past several months. Since winning the election, he has spent Sunday mornings at the gym. Many Washington-area churches hope that will change after he is inaugurated.

At Metropolitan AME Church, a historic, predominantly black congregation six blocks from the White House, senior pastor Ronald Braxton says parishioners have been buzzing about the possibility that the incoming president, his wife, Michelle, and their daughters, — 10-year-old Malia and 7-year-old Sasha — might attend services with them.

Braxton said it would be good if Obama resumed worshipping at a congregation

rooted in the black community.

"He's familiar with African-American worship traditions," Braxton said, referring to Obama's membership at Wright's church in Chicago. "Metropolitan AME would be a wise choice and a safe haven in which to worship."

"Hopefully he and his family will pray and find a place that works for them." Randall Balmer, a professor of American religious history at Columbia University who wrote "God in the White House: How Faith Shaped the Presidency from John F. Kennedy to George W. Bush," said there is no obvious choice for Obama as he searches for a congregation.

And while he said Americans generally like to know that their president goes to church on Sunday, they tend not to be concerned about the particular denomination. He hopes that same deference will be extended to the Obamas' choice.

"I'm sure he's going to be careful. He got burned," Balmer said, referring to the Wright controversy. "He probably will be a little bit cautious with whom he associates."

Obituaries

In Loving Memory

Services for Robert Moses, who died Nov. 9, 2008, were held Nov. 17, 2008.

He was born on Sept. 10, 1964 to Donald and Vandora Moses of Philadelphia.

Growing up in West Philadelphia, he enjoyed playing stick ball, wall ball and tag football.

He was employed in several jobs through the years most notably as a mover for Joe Smith & Sons Moving and Storage. He had energy abounding and was blessed with the gift of singing.

In 1982, he moved to Portland, and in 1989, he met Michelle Moreland which began the start of a relationship that was inseparable through all of life's challenges. Rob and Michelle were married on Feb. 19, 1998 by Michelle's mother Kathleen at their family church in Clackamas County.

He was a devoted husband and father, enjoyed spending time with his family, camping, and coaching football, basketball and soccer for his sons'

Robert F. Moses

He found a special joy in allowing his youngest Alexis to wrap him around her little finger. He truly adored his children.

Preceding him in death was his father. He leaves to cherish precious memories, his wife; and children, Robert, Joshua and Alexis Moses; his mother; brothers, Donald and Terrance; sisters, Angela Saunders and Yolanda Moses of Portland, Debbie Bevens and Teresa Saunders Shamik Moses; Briana Moses, Dontae Moses and Jaquan Moses of Philadelphia; brother-in-laws, Steven Saunders and Richard Saunders; sister in laws Michelle L. Moses, Teresa Gliden, Jessica Allen, Becky Holmberg and future sister in law Byanu; mother and father in laws, Clifford and Tamara Moreland and Kathleen and Darryl Wige; 36 nieces and nephews; many loving aunts and uncles; in addition to a host of cousins and close friends.

Arrangements entrusted by Cox & Cox Funeral Chapel.

Devoted Husband, Father and Grandfather

Charles Fletcher

A graveside service for Charles Fletcher was held Friday, Nov. 21, 2008 at Willamette National Cemetery.

He was born in the Happy Bend community near Atkins, Ark. to Jones and Blanchie Fletcher on March 7, 1923. He was the eighth of 16 children and was named for his grandfather Charley Fletcher.

He was a devoted, loving husband and a stern but endearing father and grandfather who always went above and beyond to provide an excellent quality of life for his family. His smooth charm, quick wit and clever anecdotes will not soon be forgotten.

He loved to laugh and sing the "down home blues" and often encouraged those in his company to enjoy life and live it to the fullest.

He was joined in marriage to Eunice Virginia Wilson in 1960. From this blessed union, he gained a daughter, Billie W. Finch.

Charles led a very full and active life that included two years in the U. S. Army during World War II, 50-plus years as a Merchant Seaman where he served as a highly skilled

chef, and an avid love for hunting and fishing. It was this great love of the outdoors that will fuel memory upon memory of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and uncle.



Charles has left to celebrate his legacy, his precious wife; devoted daughter; 2 grandchildren; Darryl L. Alexander, JaJuan (Javarr) Requena; 6 great grandchildren; 3 great-great grandchildren; and his siblings, Nithia Lee Upshaw, Jones (June) Fletcher Jr., and Leo (Clove) Fletcher — all of Chicago, one brother-in-law, James Powell of Little Rock, Ark and one sister-in-law, Lucille Fletcher of Chicago.

He was preceded in death by his parents; siblings, Doyle (Ruth) Fletcher, Cullen (Radia) Fletcher, Douglas (Darlene) Fletcher, Reuben Fletcher, McKindra Fletcher, Miranda (B.J.) Jamison, Lillie (Hubert) Hemphill, Peggy (George) Weaver, Marye Maurine Powell, Riley Fletcher, Newtie Fletcher, and Willis Fletcher; and two grandchildren.

Arrangements by Terry Family Funeral Home.

Red Cross Blood Drives

This Thanksgiving, Nov. 27, the Red Cross doors will be open to collect the gift of life.

Blood donation drives will be held from 7 a.m. to Noon at the Red Cross Portland donor center, 3131 N. Vancouver Ave.; and from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the new Clark County Red Cross donor center, located at 5109 N.E. 82nd Ave. in Vancouver.

All donors will receive a free pumpkin pie from Thriftway and a Thanksgiving Day Blood Drive

T-shirt, while supplies last.

Because blood and platelets have a limited shelf life, the donations collected at these events help boost the blood supply going into the winter season, a time when donations typically decline.

The Red Cross supplies life-saving blood around the clock. Blood is needed to treat cancer patients, trauma and burn victims, premature babies, organ transplant patients, and those living with chronic blood diseases.



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Phone: (503) 287-0261 for more information

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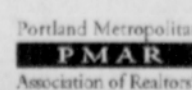


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