

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2009 Subaru Impreza WRX Premium

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2009 Subaru WRX Premium Sedan is deceptively proficient. It's stiffer-but-still-soft suspension lacks the feel and confidence of other sharp-handling sport compacts, but this four-door WRX is easily tossed into difficult curves, emerging with its composure intact.

Just one engine powers the Subaru Impreza WRX: the trademark horizontally opposed (flat) four-cylinder. At 2.5 liters and with 16 valves and dual overhead cams, the engine features a larger turbo for '09 that puts out an additional 41 horses for a total of 265 hp. The WRX receives upgraded suspension, bigger wheels and tires and aerodynamic body changes, and is available only with a 5-speed manual transmission, making the WRX quicker and more fun to drive than ever. The well-spaced ratios of the manual transmission's five gears capitalize on the power



Specifications: 2.5L DOHC inter-cooled turbo engine; Five speed manual transmission; 18 city mpg, 25 highway mpg; MSRP \$30,190

band's large sweet spot. The change in gear ratio has improved the WRX it not quick to red line when you put your foot into it.

The Impreza WRX chas-

sis is designed for improved rigidity and ride comfort and employs high-tension steel at key structural points. In addition to providing a basis for more responsive handling,

the double-wishbone rear suspension that debuted in the new-generation Impreza models enables a smooth ride quality as well as decreased road noise for a quieter

cabin. Subaru needs to improve on the overall noise of

the vehicle there is a constant light hiss when the air conditioner is on.

The available navigation and information center in Impreza WRX is the focal point of the center console. The navigation screen is located at the top of the dashboard for improved visibility and ease of use. With the navigation system, the center console provides an input for MP3 players as well as RCA-type video jacks that can accommodate portable gaming devices. These can be displayed on the navigation screen when the vehicle is parked

Subaru Impreza WRX Premium has brought to their line an option for those you are not the rugged outdoor type. It combines great acceleration from a 2.5-liter turbocharged engine and agile handling and stability from the all-wheel-drive system for a fun driving experience. This is another vehicle for the Y generation that adds technology to bring a new set of consumers.



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Abstract Rude at Berbati's Pan

Respected MC Abstract Rude will be at Berbati's Pan on Tuesday, May 5 in support of his Rhymesayers debut, *Rejuvenation*. The hip hop artist is a West Coast legend and a veteran of LA's Goodlife open mic night, the same scene that gave birth to Jurassic 5 and the Pharcyde, among others.

Birdsongs at Whitaker Ponds

The Columbia Slough Watershed Council invites bird enthusiasts to the free spring birding tour, Birdsongs at Whitaker Ponds.

David Helzer of Portland Environmental Services will lead these early-morning walks focused on bird identifications through sound. Participants will walk the 1/2 mile trail around Whitaker Ponds Nature Park in northeast Portland with the goal of improving their birding skills in a relaxed, social setting.

Helzer has years of professional experience with birds, having handled raptors with the Audubon Society of Portland and managed flocks with the Portland International Airport's Wildlife Hazard Management Program.

"The mix of resident birds and spring migrants should provide opportunities to hear and see a variety of species," said Helzer. Birds often spotted at Whitaker



Spring birding tours will draw nature lovers to Whitaker Ponds on Friday, May 1 and June 12.

Ponds in the spring include goldfinches, osprey, wood ducks, and great blue herons.

Tour dates are Fridays, May

1 and June from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Participants are requested to bring their own binoculars and bird guide books.

Pre-registration is required by going to columbiaslough.org or calling Melissa Sandoz at 503-281-1132.

Snoop Dogg Tour Coming to Portland

Hip-hop legend Snoop Dogg, Slightly Stoopid and Stephen Marley will team up for this summer's 'Blazed and Confused' tour which stops at the Memorial Coliseum in Portland on Friday, July 17.

Tickets go on sale Saturday, May 2 at the Rose Quarter box

office and at all participating Safeway Tickets West outlets, by calling 877-789-7673 or at comcastix.com

The tour will bring together a mix of rock and blues, hip-hop and reggae.

"We're gonna go out and just basically give the people a good time," Snoop says.



Snoop Dogg is bringing his hip hop tour to Portland.

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Philadelphia CMB Church



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Friday Night - Live

Pastor Roy E. Clay Sr.
& wife, Lottie M. Clay

April 24, 2009 at 7:00PM

Guest Speaker: Apostle Matt Schreiber

April 26, 2009

53rd Church Anniversary

Guest Speaker: Bishop H.B. Daniels Jr.

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