

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2009 Kia Soul

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The Soul began life as a very cool concept car in 2006, but the powerful, big-haunch look and a lot of the trick, appealing aspects have been finessed out in the obligatory production compromise. The 2009 Kia Soul is no sports car, but its compact size make for a pretty fun machine for zipping around town. Its stick shift heightens the level of fun because the shift knob is very comfortable and fits your hand perfectly but we had the automatic this week and it did not take from the experience. Many small, budget-friendly cars are annoyingly noisy.

The Soul comes with standard four wheel disc brakes impart a sure feeling to the brake pedal and stability control is also fitted across the board. Basic Souls are motivated by a 1.6-liter four-cylinder sending 122 hp and 115 lb-ft of torque. The automatic is mostly unnoticeable, though it occasionally it dodders a bit before delivering a kickdown. There's a life to the rack-and-pinion setup that



Specifications: 1.6-liter four-cylinder engine; electronically controlled automatic transmission with overdrive; 24 city mpg, 30 highway mpg; MSRP \$13,995

says the Soul has been tuned by folks who know what a proper front-wheel drive car should feel like

There are lots of storage compartments that come standard with a big glove box although the cargo area itself is really

small unless you lower the rear seats. The driver's seat to be rather comfortable, but the passenger seat seems to have too

much nonadjustable lumbar support. The rear leg- and foot-room is surprisingly generous inside the Soul. Boxy yet not

sloppy the Soul's exterior has been skillfully drawn with careful detailing. Windows and tail-light clusters are set off by bevels. Every vent, character line, bulge and curve has been placed cleanly and with purpose, and the end result is that the Soul's styling is clever without being cloying.

The standard Soul has plain black upholstery, yet it doesn't skimp on equipment. The standard audio system has auxiliary and USB jacks and there are two steps of entertainment upgrades, with the top-level system kicking out 315 watts. There are even red lights in the speakers housings that can pulse soothingly or twiddle in time with the music.

In general this is fun little car for running around town in. This vehicle will appeal more to the younger generation with it new with the extra frills of the being able to use your ipod with a easily accessible port and speakers that flash to the beat of your favorite tunes. It's styling is all but universally praised, its price of entry is eminently reasonable, and its driving performance exceeds expectations.

Dear Deanna!

After being married for 10 years I love my wife but I think I'm in love with someone else. I'm ready to file for divorce because I want to be with the other woman. My wife and I don't have any children and I would be willing to split our assets in order to be happy. How do I make sure the love is gone with my wife? --David; Memphis, Tenn.

Dear David:

Check on your love through prayer to seek forgiveness for your adultery and violation of wedding vows. You're confused and sound selfish because things may not be going your way in the marriage. The other woman has no place in this decision and you need to make her disappear. Seek professional marriage counseling so your wife's story can be heard and a decision made together about your future.

Dear Deanna!

My girlfriend slapped me so hard that she cut my lip and I started bleeding. It made me so mad that I slapped her. She called the police and accused me of beating her and I went to jail for three days. I broke up with her because she didn't tell the police that I hit her for calling my mother out of her name. She wants to get back with me but I'm just not feeling it. What should I do? --Anonymous; San Bernardino, Calif.

Dear Anonymous:

Mothers are on the second line of elevation after God but you should've walked away instead of reacting in a physical manner. However, any woman that will send a man to jail out of spite deserves to be alone. This woman told an ugly lie that will



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An advice column known for its fearless approach to reality based subjects!

haunt you for a long time. You should enjoy your freedom and realize there are other fish in the sea.

Dear Deanna!

I'm in a committed relationship with no children or financial concerns. However, I do want children. Do you think I should adopt or end the relationship because the lady I'm with doesn't plan on having kids? --Damien; On-Line Reader

Dear Damien:

Regardless of where they come from, natural birth or adoption, both parties must agree on the children issue. There's a difference between a woman not wanting to physically birth children versus not wanting any at all. Have a discussion with your mate and see if she's willing to adopt. If so, you're fine. If not, decide if you want to be with this woman or find one that'll fulfill your dream to hear the pitter patter of little feet.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! at the email askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

Obituaries



Long Time Resident Remembered

Albert Pool

Services for Albert Pool, who passed away June 22, 2009, will be held Saturday, June 27 at 11 a.m. at Rose City Cemetery and Funeral Home, 5625 N.E. Fremont St.

Mr. Pool was born in 1927. He retired from the Union Pacific Railroad. He worked for 48 years at Portland Meadows Race Track and did seasonal work at Multnomah Kennel Club over the same period. He stayed busy after retirement distributing food donations.

He leaves to mourn, his wife of 54 years, Mary Pool; daughters June Miller of Wichita Falls, Texas, and Kim Pool of Portland; and granddaughter, Celece Kahey of Grand Prairie, Texas.

Albert can finally go to his reward with no doubt of the Lord saying well done loyal and faithful servant.

In Loving Memory

Thelma Unthank Brown

A celebration of life service for Thelma Altha Unthank Brown, who died May 28, 2009 after an extended illness, were held June 15 at St. Philip the Deacon Episcopal Church.

She was born in Portland on March 16, 1940, the fourth child born to Dr. DeNorval Unthank and Thelma Shipman Unthank.

She graduated from Grant High School in 1958 and began her higher education at Spelman College in Atlanta, Ga. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from Oregon State University and completed her education with a Master of Administrative Education at Portland State University.

She inspired the lives of many youth and adults in the community as an educator. Thelma began her 30 year tenure with Portland Public Schools as a teacher's aide in the Head Start Program, later serving as an elementary teacher at Eliot and Bridlemile schools, as principal at Rice, Humboldt and Wilcox elementary schools, and as vice principal at Madison and Benson High Schools.

In 1997, Thelma was honored as Oregon Vice Principal of the year. Under former Gov. Victor Atiyeh, she served on the Oregon Education Block Grants Commission.

Thelma was a member of St. Philip Episcopal Church, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and National Association of Elementary Association of Secondary School Educators. She was also involved in the Rose Festival Association and mentoring young women.

Thelma is survived by her daughters, Marsha Brown Jordan, Lisa Brown Evans and Wendi Michelle Brown; a niece, Chelsea Unthank Moore; brothers, Thomas Unthank, and James, Unthank; sister; Lesley Unthank; and grandchildren, Andre Unthank and Savannah Torrance.

Donations to a Thelma Unthank Brown scholarship fund may be made to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., in care of Piedmont Rose Connection, P.O. Box 4265 Portland, OR 97208 or make contributions to the OHSU Layton Aging and Alzheimer's disease Center by calling 503-229-1730.



In Loving Memory

Mrs. Denell Ann Tanner-Mullen

Nov. 6, 1958 – June 28, 2007

It's been two years since we lost such a wonderful person to such a horrible disease like cancer. Denell was 48 years young when she left us all. She was so loved by so many. It's kind of funny how many people she had touched in her short life.

She was a mother to three beautiful girls, Nenia, Ariel, Ahsia and the grand mother to two grandsons, Trevonni and Noah. She was the wife of Doug Mullen and they spent 27 years raising the children.

Denell's mother is Miss Sally Tanner who would talk to Denell everyday about everything under the sun but mostly

they talked about the jewelry channel and what they could buy. They were not only mother and daughter but they were very good friends as well. She had the same type of a relationship with her girls.

And in Doug's own words, "I couldn't have asked for a better woman or mother for my children." Her family was always first before anything else.

She has two sisters and two Brothers and a host of other family who miss her very much.

Before she passed she had told us she saw angels with their hands out. So we are comforted knowing she's with the lord and knowing we'll see her soon but for now we see her every night in our dreams and think of her daily.

She is missed by so many. We all want to say thank you for being a wonderful person and we love you Denell.

CARWASH Saturday June 27th
11 am - 4 pm

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