

Portland Observer Auto Review

News and reviews on new motor vehicles

2010 Subaru Outback 2.5i

BY KATHLEEN CARR

The 2010 Subaru Outback has made changes that may not be notice from first sight but once you put yourself inside you can clearly notice the larger vehicle. It is much bigger in nearly every dimension. Not only does this provide a more visual distinction from traditionally wagon, but it also provides a significant improvement in rear seat space and cargo capacity. Larger items can be strapped to the roof using the standard, adjustable roof rails that easily swing inward to serve double-duty as cross rails. It's a great feature that cuts down on the wind noise and air drag that go along with fixed cross rails. This is in an effort to draw new consumers to the Outback.

The new model will be available in the buyer's choice of a 2.5-liter, normally aspirated flat-four giving

170 horsepower and 170 pound-feet of torque (backed by one of two new transmissions: a six-speed manual or Subie's "Lineartronic" CVT) or a 3.6-liter flat-six (256 hp and 247 pound-feet) paired to a conventional five-speed automatic. Regardless of which engine is specified, the fuel tank grows to 18.5 gallons (from 16.9), and regular fuel is all that's required

The base 2.5i comes standard with 16-inch steel wheels, automatic headlights, adjustable roof rails and cross bars, full power accessories, cruise control, a tilt-and-telescoping steering column, height-adjustable driver seat and a four-speaker stereo with CD player and an auxiliary audio jack. The 2.5i Premium adds 17-inch alloy wheels, foglights, rear privacy glass, eight-way power driver seat (with power lumbar) and

Tested Vehicle Information: 2.5 Liter SOHC 16 Valve Boxer Engine; Six speed manual transmission; 19 City MPG, 2 Highway MPG; MSRP \$24,995



a leather-wrapped steering wheel. Optional on the Premium is an All-Weather package that adds heated side mirrors, a windshield wiper de-icer and heated front seats. The optional Harman Kardon stereo includes nine speakers, a six-CD changer and Bluetooth phone and audio connectivity. The 2.5i Limited adds the All-Weather package, Harman Kardon stereo,

CVT, a four-way power passenger seat, dual-zone automatic climate control and leather upholstery.

The Outback on the road the chassis felt solid. Over bumps and uneven roadways the Outback tracked well and kept its line with confidence. It had some good initial grunt in each of the 6-speed gears but then, after 3500 rpm, it didn't

really pull the car with much urgency. This was more an issue merging on the freeway and getting up to speed.

The last-generation Outback was already comfortable, all-weather and off-road capable, and able to haul pretty much whatever you threw at it. The improvements still may not be enough to get the attention of new consumers.

Neighborhood Activist was Unsung Hero

Betty Walker

Betty Walker, who epitomized the role of unsung hero for her neighborhood, died Feb. 17 of cancer at age 90.

Walker was a consistent volunteer for community causes. She was involved in the Model Cities program in the 1960s and '70s, was a member of the Sabin Community Association from its creation in 1969 until her "retirement" last year, and was that organization's delegate to the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods when it was founded in 1975 to continue the work of Model Cities.

Her efforts earned her a Spirit of Portland Award.

"She was always there when help was needed," Sabin co-chair Rachel Studer said at a memorial service on Saturday. Another neighborhood activist, Diane Meisenhelter added, "Betty was there year after year at neighborhood cleanups, and you wondered why they couldn't find someone else, younger, to take that on."



Walker was also a consistent supporter of The Reading Tree, a volunteer-run summer remedial reading program that took place every summer in Irving Park from the 1970s until 2005, serving thousands of young people. However, as another supporter, Marie Tabor, said at the memorial, "It wouldn't have lasted as long as it did if not for Betty. She operated behind the lines, writing grants and doing whatever else was needed." She played a similar role

for other causes such as the Democratic Party and the League of Women Voters.

In her later years Walker assumed the role of elder statesperson and the repository of information about the organizations she served. One Reading Tree veteran called her "a human google" resource.

Edna Robertson, who served as the Northeast Coalition's director from 1975 to 1994, says that Walker was "like a sister" to her, and visited her frequently.

Born in Parkdale, Ore. in 1919, Walker was the daughter of Homer Rogers, who built the Mt. Hood Lodge and ran the Cloud Cap Inn. Together with her sisters Sally and Kate, she grew up in the mountains hiking and horseback riding; she retained a love of the outdoors for the rest of her life. Eventually the family moved to Portland and the girls enrolled and graduated from Catlin Gabel School. Walker studied for two years at Reed College, then took a job as a phone company operator.

She later worked at the Reed College Library for 20 years.

In 1946 she married fellow Reed student Graham Walker. The couple had three children - Hoyt, Caroline and Marguerite. She

eventually had four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and took on the role of doting grandma. One of her in-laws said of her, "Betty was so accepting and so gentle."

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Portland Congress Center
1001 SW Fifth Avenue,
Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204

Phone: 503-220-1790
Fax: 1+503-220-1815

Email:
hodgehspks@msn.com

www.nwvoiceforchrist.com

~By Appointment Only~

In Loving Memory

Jamell Patrick Taylor

Jamell Patrick Taylor, was born on Dec. 11, 1987, in Tacoma, to proud parents Drake and JoEllen Taylor. He grew up and attended school in Portland with his three sisters and one brother.

Jamell developed a love for sports at an early age. At 9 years old, he was the youngest player on a Pop Warner football team. He was featured in the Oregonian as one of the youngest and fastest up-and-coming running backs. He continued his football career throughout high school and into the semi-pro league and he had dreams of going pro. In 2007, Jamell began attending Mt. Hood Community College with plans to transfer to a university

college.

Jamell was a very spiritual man who gave his life to Christ at an early age and was water baptized with his entire family.

In 2007, he met the love of his life Dominique Adrian LaSane and on Aug. 23, 2009 they entered into holy matrimony. Although, their marriage was short, they deeply loved each other and shared many loving memories.

Leaving to cherish Jamell's memory is his loving wife Dominique and their three children, Khaliyah, Khalil and Kyree; his parents, Drake and JoEllen; his sisters Tamika, Kara and Brandy and his brother DeShawn. He also leaves behind many uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of many friends and acquaintances.