

Putting Grand into Grand Cherokee 2011 Style

May 2011 by Bob Long - Editor in Chief / Host

I have always been a fan of the Jeep Grand Cherokee. For 2011 the folks at Jeep have succeeded in building the best Grand Cherokee ever. Starting with a stout architecture sharing some underpinnings shared with the Mercedes ML SUV this is best handling and performing SUV's in the market place at its price point.

Step into the new Jeep Grand Cherokee and word Grand comes to mind. Ralph Giles is one of my favorite automaker executives and great radio guest. He is a simply a nice super passionate car guy. He also happens to be Dodge CEO and Chrysler's Group Chief Designer. Ralph and his team have done a magnificent job of adding an incredible luxury feel, look and touch to the cabin of the Grand Cherokee. Leather is everywhere and the effect is stunning. The noise levels are significantly improved over previous generations.



Power plant wise the big news is the new Penastar 3.6 Liter V6 which is an excellent performer offering a cruising range of up to 500 miles. My test vehicle was equipped with the 5.7 Hemi V8. In a nod to in my opinion nauseating political and eco correctness the Hemi badge has been removed from most Chrysler products. However this 5.7 Hemi runs on four cylinders in highway mode and delivers excellent fuel economy numbers. Plus it packs a punch and lots of smiles per mile.

Since its introduction the Jeep Grand Cherokee has won 29 major awards from Motor Weeks TV's Drivers Choice awards plus "Best Large SUV" from the New England Motor Press Association's "Official Winter Vehicle of New England Award" It packs a more than 45 safety and security features, and a variety of advanced technology features.

Imagine three different unique 4 X 4 systems? My favorite is a new Jeep Selec-Terrain™ system, which makes weather and terrain adjustments as simple as switching a dial. Jeep Grand Cherokee sales are up 64% in the challenged large SUV market place, it does not surprise me this vehicle is that good. For those into serious off roading the Jeep has all the available gear available.

For me my favorite Jeep is the recently introduced 2012 STR8 version packing a 465HP and 465 lb. feet pound feet of torque. Jeep says it is the best handling one ever and I can't wait to sample as soon it becomes available late this year. Off roading is not important to me I just need to deal with New England snow and making up the street I live on.

Check out the aggressive styling complete with hood air intakes and large front spoiler



Rumor has it that Maserati will use the Jeep Grand Cherokee as the basis for its upcoming SUV.

Personally I am a fan of Chrysler's premium stereos with navigation, DVD Audio and Video capability and U Connect. The 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee is a tribute to Jeep's 70 year history and a world class SUV at a price starting at \$30,215.00

