

Sinkhole Corvettes Being Brought Back to Life

by Jim Stickford

It took approximately a minute for eight classic Corvettes to fall into a sinkhole in Kentucky. But getting those vehicles out of the hole is taking considerably longer.

The incident took place at the National Corvette Museum Skydome exhibit area in Bowling Green on Feb. 12.

Work on retrieving the classic cars began the week of Feb. 24.

Museum spokesperson Katie Frassinelli said the rescue squad was able to get a crane into the “Skydome” area of the museum.

“We didn’t have to take the roof off to put the crane in because the Skydome room’s ceiling is about 10 stories high,” Frassinelli said.

“We began by finishing shallow test borings in the remainder of the Skydome floor to insure there was no immediate danger of another sinkhole collapse happening in the remaining floor space. These tests proved successful.

“Before heavy equipment such as manlifts, excavators and cranes (which are on site and ready to approach the sinkhole area) could be brought into the Skydome area, deeper test drilling was performed to insure



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GM’s 2009 Blue Devil ZR1 Corvette was the first classic ‘Vette rescued March 3 from the sinkhole at the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Ky.



2014 Chevy Cruze



2014 Chrysler 200



2014 Ford F-150

Extended Winter Reduces GM, Ford Sales; Chrysler’s Discounts Boost Final Results

By TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) – General Motors, Ford and Toyota reported U.S. sales declines last month as frigid temperatures and snowstorms pounded much of the nation.

America’s top three automakers said the month started slowly but sales began to recover in the second half, a sign that fears of a broader auto sales slowdown may be unfounded.

Chrysler and Nissan did report double-digit gains, but discounted some key models to get there.

Industry analysts expect overall sales to rise about 1 percent for the month, a slow pace compared with the 8 percent increase for all of last year.

Most blamed the weather, but some are wonder-

ing if the past four years’ momentum is waning.

Dealer inventories, especially for the Detroit automakers, have hit their highest level in five years, putting pressure on companies to clear their lots.

At the end of January, dealers had an 89-day supply of cars and trucks, according to Ward’s AutolnfoBank. Detroit automakers had the most, with General Motors at 114 days, followed by Ford at 107 and Chrysler at 105. A 60-day supply of vehicles is considered ideal.

To unload the inventory, automakers are offering more discounts. That means deals for consumers. Incentives are the highest they’ve been in three years, averaging \$2,633 per vehicle in February, up more than 5 percent from a year ago, according to the TrueCar.

Larry Dominique, executive vice president of

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GM Sales Down 1 Percent, But Strong in Pickups

GM’s sales figures for February were a “good news, bad news” situation.

Sales were down slightly when compared with the previous year, but the automaker still beat expectations.

General Motors dealers delivered 222,104 vehicles in the U.S. in February. Total sales were down 1 percent compared with a year ago, beating analysts’ forecasts, said GM financial spokesperson Jim Cain.

Retail and fleet sales were both down 1 percent. GM increased its sales from January by 30 percent, more than 10 percentage points better than the industry as a whole.

Six Chrysler Vehicles Set Sales Records

Beating industry trends for February, Chrysler reported an 11 percent gain in monthly sales compared with the previous year.

Chrysler’s March 3 report showed U.S. sales of 154,866 units, an 11 percent increase compared with sales in February 2013 (139,015 units), and the group’s best February sales since 2007, said Chrysler spokesperson Ralph Kiesel.

The Chrysler, Jeep, Ram Truck, and Fiat brands each posted year-over-year sales gains in February compared with the same month a year ago.

The Jeep brand’s 47 percent increase was the largest sales

Sales ‘Surged In Final Week’ – Ford’s Felice

Trucks did the heavy lifting for Ford in February.

Ford Motor Company U.S. total sales of 183,947 vehicles in February are down 6 percent from a year ago and retail sales of 125,919 vehicles are off 4 percent.

But Ford F-Series and Lincoln brand vehicles posted strong gains, said company spokesperson Erich Merkle.

F-Series sales totaled 55,882 in February, making the month Ford’s best February for F-Series in eight years.

Led by MKZ and MKX, Lincoln sales of 6,661 are up 36 percent in February compared with a year ago. This represents Lin-

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