

**Wheels:** Dean of Coldwater says, “I have a 1999 Dodge Dakota Sport with a V-8 engine and 44,400 miles. It seems the cruise control has a mind of its own. At times, the cruise light doesn’t come on and it won’t engage. At times, I have turned off the ignition and restarted and it would work? What do you think?”

**Halderman:** I asked John Porter, an assistant professor at Sinclair Community College, for his advice and here is his response. “There are four different problems I have seen reoccurring on second generation Dakotas: the clockspring, wiring around the tilt mechanism, the cruise switch, and the brake switch – all of which give the cruise a mind of its own. The cruise switches on these vehicles are momentary-contact resistive multiplex (MUX) switches. If the PCM does not see a momentary change in voltage, it will not actuate the cruise. I don’t like the brake switch. I believe the cruise will disengage, but the cruise light will stay on if it is depressed (or thinks it is depressed). I also don’t like the clockspring (still a possibility) because of the ignition cycle reset. So, a control wire grounding to the steering column or a faulty switch is most likely. I would drive the vehicle and try to obtain a min/max voltage drop of the MUX circuits and the switches.” Thanks, John.

I hope this information is helpful. It sounds as if you should take your vehicle to an expert who can diagnose the problem correctly.

