

Wheels: An e-mail from KW says, “I have a 1999 Jeep Cherokee Sport 4 x 4 with about 102,000 miles on it. Starting in February, it began “acting” up. When you have your foot steadily on the gas, the Jeep would act as if it wasn’t receiving the gas steadily enough. It would be idling at a red light and the engine would do short, quick little revs, sort of throwing the engine forward. Soon after that, it would begin stalling. I could pull up to a stop light or a stop sign and it would shut off. It shut off while accelerating and even while coasting. I’ve had the MAP sensor, the coolant sensor, and a few other ones replaced, but it still happens. The Jeep messes up until the engine is over 180 degrees, and then it’s fine. I always change the oil on time. Any idea on what could be the problem?”

Halderman: I checked the files at the International Automotive Technicians Network (www.iatn.net) and found several possible causes to your concern including:

1. a clogged fuel filter and/or defective fuel pump
2. a defective oxygen sensor
3. a defective airbag clock spring under the steering wheel that affects the throttle position sensor voltage
4. carbon deposits on the valves

I believe any of these, plus many other possible causes, could be the cause of your concern. It may be as simple as having the engine decarbonized, which is a common problem and should be done anyway with a vehicle with over 100,000 miles. If this does not take care of the problem, more expensive items may be needed to fix your Jeep. I suggest that you have the engine diagnosed by a qualified service technician.

