

Wheels: An e-mail from Ann says, “I am driving a 1994 GMC Sonoma pickup with 152,000 miles. It has 4-wheel drive and is in good condition. My drive to work each day is 35 miles one way. I just started having a problem – in third gear, going about 30-35 mph, it just faltered, hesitated, sort of chugged for a moment like it didn’t get any gas. Then it was fine. It happened again the next morning and once on the drive home. We just had it worked on at a local dealership for an electrical problem (wire shorted out on the trailer light section), but I don’t think it is related to that. I added a gas treatment in case it was “bad” gas. That didn’t seem to make any difference.”

Halderman: The most likely cause is a fault with the distributor. The pickup coil magnet cracks on these units causing the engine to run horrible at times. If the magnets of the pickup coil inside the distributor are cracked, then the pickup coil or the entire distributor should be replaced. Other possible causes include a defective ignition coil or even the fuel pump. When was the last time the fuel filter was replaced?

