WHEELS: *Donald E. writes by e-mail: "I own a 2007 Cadillac CTS with 6,400 miles on it. It's equipped with a V6 engine. I went on line and found that a large number of GM V6's are having engine problems. The timing chain is wearing prematurely regardless of mileage. I received a letter from Cadillac Division that they would change the calibration of the engine control module, including the engine oil life monitor, which in most cases will recommend more frequent oil changes. This will ensure that your vehicle will not experience this condition. Do you think that this will solve the problem? I read your column about General Motors new engine oil, Dexos. I change my oil every 3 months at the Cadillac dealers using synthetic oil".*

Halderman: I suggest that you do have the computer recalibration (re-flash) performed. This may include changes to the variable valve timing that could help reduce the wear to the timing chain and tensioners. Using Dexos oil may also help but you are doing everything you can to help. Apparently you do not drive the Cadillac very much as it is about 4 years old and has less than 7,000 miles which is about 2,000 miles per year. There may be some things you can help your vehicle due to not driving it very often or very far. These suggestions include:

1. Use a gasoline stabilizer such as STA-BIL at each fill up to help keep the gasoline from deteriorating. According to fuel experts, the "shelf life" of gasoline is about 90 days. Therefore you should operate the vehicle enough every 3 months to burn a tank of fuel. Using the stabilizer will be added insurance against possible fuel system-related faults such as clogged fuel injectors.

2. Consider using a "float-type" battery charger to keep the battery charged if it is being stored or not driven at least every week. This will not only keep the battery charged but it will extend the life of the battery. Batteries work best when kept from being deeply discharged.

3. Consider taking a trip out-of-town once a month to get the engine and all the drive train up to operating temperature and keeping it there. This helps boil off any condensed moisture and helps make sure that all moving parts are thoroughly lubricated and that the systems are all working as designed. For example, if you are driving in slow city traffic, the transmission my not shift into overdrive. Getting the vehicle out on the road, especially now that spring is here, helps the vehicle by being used as it is designed.

Keep the tires properly inflated. Use the inflation pressure specification as shown on the placard on the driver's door as the guide to use for the proper pressure. Do not forget to check the spare tire.