



MR:Y2000

Email questions to: c5dan@c5registry.com with "Mr. Y2000" in subject line

Q. Need a bit more help. My 2001 recently began losing connectivity with my key fob. I can re-sync by pressing lock/unlock for 15 seconds and it will work fine for a few days. The manual says this can happen if the vehicle battery is disconnected for three days (not the issue, one year old Optima Red-Top) or when transmitter battery is replaced. I've replaced batteries a couple of times and never seen it act like this. Maybe the fob is going bad.

Mr. Y2000: There have been several issues with the key fob over the years. I suspect that it may have an internal failure — circuit board cracked or the battery terminal has broken loose from the circuit board. It happens when the fob has been dropped.

Q. I have a 2001 convertible, 6 speed purchased new in April '01. After about 6 months, while driving at night I noticed that the headlights would dim as though there was some sort of power drain. I began driving with the volt gauge qured up on the instrument panel. For no apparent reason the volts would drop from the usual 13.9/14.0 to the low 12's just for an instant and then right back up. It would usually only do it once. There also seems to be significant movement in the volts when the turn indicators are operating. I took it to the dealership and they could not duplicate the problem but replaced the alternator "just in case." The problem continues to this date. I know, I should have gone back but I thought I was being overly concerned. It only happens when the headlights are on and when the engine is cold, not that that has anything to do with it since it's electrical. Is this normal or should I get back to the dealer before the original warranty runs out?

Mr. Y2000: This condition is the result of the electric Air Injection Reaction (AIR) pump (one of the emissions components) coming on. The pump draws a large amount of amperage when it starts and there is a momentary delay built into the alternator so when the pump starts the voltage momentarily drops until the alternator responds by increasing its output. This is not a condition that will cause a concern, it happens on a lot of vehicles.

Q: I have a 97 and when I drive it in the winter and hit a pot hole or bump, the sudden jerk to the car will set off the warning light to service the traction control. When I turn it off and back on to reset the computer, it stays off until the next good crunch. Seems as though in the summer I hardly ever have a problem with it.

Mr. Y2000: My guess would be a bad wheel speed sensor. More accurately, a broken wheel speed sensor wire, one that's broken inside the insulation.

MR. Y2000 ANSWERS FUTURE C6 PROBLEM

Q. If I understand the C6 keyless entry/drive system, it's completely electronic. The key fob transmits a signal code to the car which opens the door and allows the engine to start with the push of a button. Do I have that right?

I think the transmitted signal is RF, much like a garage door opener. If a "bad guy" can capture the code to a garage door opener by proximity and later rob the house, would the same not be true for the new fob system?

Anyone thought about this? Has GM? Perhaps the code is based upon "frequency hopping" and changes every time it's used. In any case, it would be interesting to see how many doors randomly unlocked at a large C6 Corvette show.

Mr. Y2000: The keyless entry does in fact rotate frequencies every time the system is used, just like the C5's system.

