

Wheels: An e-mail from Howard asks, “I have a 1992 Chevy Silverado ½ ton pickup, 5.7 350 engine with 82,000 miles on it. On the way back from Florida recently, I noticed a noise coming from my air conditioning unit under the dash in the heater duct. I noticed the air was blowing out warm also. The A/C light on the dash started blinking. The fuse in the dash was okay. Only thing I can think of it that the problem goes back to the noise I heard previously in the heater duct. Any ideas on what is causing my problem, and what else can I check out? I enjoy your column very much and get lots of useful information from it.”

Halderman: I asked Steve Ash, the department chair of the Automotive Technology Department at Sinclair Community College, for his opinion and he discovered a technical service bulletin that seems to describe your concern. Steve says, “Take a look at bulletin 36-11-02. This erratic problem and noise may be due to shorting of wires under the dash. The bulletin talks about the erratic operation. The noise could be due to blower or door malfunction due to the shorted wires. It is a harness of six wires that is routed near the ashtray that is getting chaffed. One of the wires could be grounding causing something in the actuators or blower to not work correctly or out of proper sequence. The problem did not cause the fuse to blow. This may be a possibility.” Thanks for your help, Steve. Checking the wiring schematic for your vehicle, I discovered that the HVAC control module supplies electrical power to all three switches that control the operation of the compressor clutch, including the high pressure cutoff switch, the low pressure cutoff switch, and the A/C compressor cycling switch. I would start my diagnosis at the compressor clutch relay.

