

U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 4

OMB APPROVAL

[] Check this box if no longer
subject to Section 16. Form 4
or Form 5 obligations may
continue. SEE Instruction 1(b).

OMB NUMBER: 3235-0287
Expires: December 31, 2001
Estimated average burden
hours per response 0.5

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

(Print or Type Responses)

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,
Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or
Section 30(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person

Belk, William I.

(Last) (First) (Middle)

6100 Fairview Road, #640

(Street)

Charlotte, NC 28210

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Sonic Automotive, Inc. (SAH)

3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)

4. Statement for Month/Year

7/01

5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)

6. Relationship of Reporting Person to Issuer
(Check all applicable)

 Director 10% Owner

 Officer (give title below) Other (Specify below)

7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)

Form filed by One Reporting Person

Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

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Table 1 -- Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security 2. Trans- 3. Trans- 4. Securities Acquired (A) 5. Amount of 6. Ownership
7. Nature of Security (Instr. 3) action action or Disposed of (D) Securities Form:

of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	Date	Code		(Instr. 3,4 and 5)			Beneficially	Direct
	(Month/ Day/ Year)	(Instr. 8)	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	Owned at End of Month (Instr. 3 and 4)	(D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)
<S> <C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
Class A Common Stock	7/9/01	M		10,000	A	\$ 8.87		D
Class A Common Stock	7/9/01	S		9,000	D	\$19.00	11,000	D
by children							6,000	I

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Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security Date Exercisable (Instr. 3) and Expiration Date (Month/Day/ Year)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/ Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6.
			Code	(A)	(D)
<S> <C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
Options to Purchase 9/30/00 3/31/10	\$8.87	07/09/01	M		10,000

