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UNITED STATES
 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549

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 | FORM 5 |
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Check box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP
 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

Form 3 Holdings Reported

Form 4 Transactions Reported

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*

Smith,	O.	Bruton
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)
c/o Sonic Automotive, Inc. 5401 E. Independence Blvd.		
(Street)		
Charlotte,	NC	28212
(City)	(State)	(Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Sonic Automotive, Inc. (SAH)

3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (Voluntary)

4. Statement for Month/Year 12/00

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

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

Director
 Officer (give title below)
 10% Owner
 Other (specify below)

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

7. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (check applicable line)

Form Filed by One Reporting Person
 Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

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

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

1. Title of Security 7. Nature (Instr. 3) of In- direct Bene- ficial	2. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	3. Trans- action Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at the end of Issuer's	6. Owner- ship Form: Direct (D) or
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Indirect ship	Owner-	(A) or (D)	Price	Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	(I) (Instr.
4)	(Instr. 4)				
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
<C>					

</TABLE>
 * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see instruction 4(b)(v).

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) Securities	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Acquired (A) or Disposed of (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)
				(A)
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
<C>				

Options to purchase	\$7.94	10/5/00	A	100,000
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</TABLE>

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

6. Date Exercisable and Expiration of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)

<S> <C> <C> <C> <C> <C>

4/5/01 10/5/10 Class A 100,000 550,000 D

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

/s/ O. Bruton Smith February 12, 2001

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.