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| FORM 4 |  
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U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

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

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

(Print or Type Responses)

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      6/01

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

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner	Other
_____	_____	_____	(specify below)
			(give title below)
			Chairman and CEO

7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (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 7. Nature of In- Security direct (Instr. 3) Bene- ficial	2. Trans- action Date 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 End of Month	6. Owner- ship Form: Direct (D) or Indirect
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Owner-ship	Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)	(I) (Instr.)
4) (Instr. 4)							
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C> <C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
<C>							

Class A Common Stock	6/18/01	J (1)	100,000	D	(1)	5,400	
D							

(1) On June 18, 2001, Mr. Smith transferred 100,000 shares of Sonic's Class A Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Smith to Egan Group, LLC (a member of the "Smith Group" as defined in Sonic's Charter) in consideration for Egan Group, LLC transferring 100,000 shares of Sonic's Class B Common Stock beneficially owned by Egan Group, LLC to Mr. Smith. This transaction is being reported on Form 4 as a conversion exempt from Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 pursuant to Rule 16b-6(b) promulgated thereunder and related SEC guidance.

</TABLE>

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)
Class B Common Stock	(2)	6/18/01	J (2)	100,000

</TABLE>

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

11. Nature of direct derivative Securities Owned at Month(1) (Instr. 4)	Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (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 Month (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 4)
<S> <C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>

Class B Common Stock (3)		immed.	N/A	Class A	100,000	(2)	11,052,500	(3)
Common Stock								

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

- (2) On June 18, 2001, Mr. Smith transferred 100,000 shares of Sonic's Class A Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Smith to Egan Group, LLC (a member of the "Smith Group" as defined in Sonic's Charter) in consideration for Egan Group, LLC transferring 100,000 shares of Sonic's Class B Common Stock beneficially owned by Egan Group, LLC to Mr. Smith. This transaction is being reported on Form 4 as a conversion exempt from Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 pursuant to Rule 16b-6(b) promulgated thereunder and related SEC guidance.
- (3) Of the 11,052,500 shares of Sonic's Class B Common Stock shown as beneficially owned by Mr. Smith in the table above, 2,171,250 shares are held directly by Mr. Smith and 8,881,250 shares are held indirectly by Mr. Smith through Sonic Financial Corporation. Mr. Smith owns the substantial majority of stock of Sonic Financial Corporation.

/s/ O. Bruton Smith

6/29/01

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\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

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Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If this form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* 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.