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 | FORM 5 |
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UNITED STATES
 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549

Check box if no longer subject to Section 16. ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b). 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 12/01

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

6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 Director Officer 10% Owner Other
 (give title below) (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 of In- direct Bene- ficial Indirect ship	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) (A) or Amount (D)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at the end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Owner- ship Form: Direct (D) or (I) (Instr.
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4) (Instr. 4)

<S> <C> <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)

<TABLE> <CAPTION>

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)
(D)				(A)
Options to Purchase	\$16.51	10/11/01	A	100,000

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

</TABLE> <TABLE> <CAPTION>

6. Date Exercisable and Maturity Date 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities 8. Price of 9. Number of Derivative 10. Ownership

Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 3 and 4)	Derivative Security	Beneficially Owned at End of Year (Instr. 4)	of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
4/11/02	10/11/11	Class A common stock	100,000	650,000 D

</TABLE>
Explanation of Responses:

/s/ O. Bruton Smith February 6, 2002

**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.