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/           OMB APPROVAL           /
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/ hours per response..... 1.0 /
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| FORM 5 |
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UNITED STATES
 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549

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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).

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ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES 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	B.	Scott
-----	-----	-----
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)

c/o Sonic Automotive, Inc.
 5401 E. Independence Blvd

 (Street)

Charlotte,	NC	28212
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(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)

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

President and Chief Operating 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>
 <CAPTION>

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

1. Title of Security 7. Nature (Instr. 3) of In-	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
direct Bene- ficial Indirect					

ship	(A) or	Fiscal Year	(I)	
Amount	(D)	Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)	(Instr. 4)
<S>	<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)
				(A)
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
Options to purchase	\$16.51	10/11/01	A	50,000

<CAPTION>

6. Date Expiration of Indirect Bene- Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Bene-	10. Ownership of Derivative Security:
--------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------	------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

Official

(Instr. 5)

Officially

Direct

Owner-

Owned

(D) or

ship

at End

Indi-

Date (Instr. 4)

Expira-

Amount or

of Year (Instr. 4)

rect (1) (Instr. 4)

Exer-
cisable

tion
Date

Title

Number of
Shares

<S>
<C>

<C>

<C>

<C>

<C>

<C>

<C>

Class A
common
Stock

4/11/02

10/11/11

50,000

539,750

D

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

/s/ B. Scott 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.