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/           OMB APPROVAL           /
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/ OMB Number:      3235-0362 /
/ Expires:  PENDING /
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| FORM 5 |
+-----+
                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).

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*

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Price,                Thomas                A.
-----
  (Last)              (First)              (Middle)
-----
2400 Bridgeway, Suite A-230
-----
                        (Street)
-----
Sausalito            CA                94965
-----
  (City)              (State)              (Zip)
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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)

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X Director      X Officer      ___ 10% Owner   ___ Other
---            ---
                (give title below)                (specify below)
                Vice Chairman

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

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X Form Filed by One Reporting Person
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___ Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person
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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-	2. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/	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	6. Owner- ship Form: Direct (D) or
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Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4)	Owner- ship (Instr. 4)	Year)	(A) or Amount (D) Price			Issuer's Fiscal Year (I) (Instr. 3 and 4) (Instr.	
<S>		<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
<C>							

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 (D) and 5)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Deriv- ative Security	3. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	4. Transac- tion Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Deriv- ative Acquired (A) or Disposed of (Instr. 3, 4, (A)
	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
Options to purchase	\$16.51	10/11/01	A	50,000

6. Date Exer- 11. Na- cisable and ture Expiration of In- Date direct (Month/Day/ Bene- Year) ficial Owner- ship Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) Amount or	8. Price of Deriv- ative Secur- ity (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Deriv- ative Secur- ities Bene- ficially Owned at End	10. Owner- ship of De- rivative Secu- rity: Direct (D) or Indi-

(Instr. 4) Exer- cisable	tion Date	Title	Number of Shares		of Year (Instr. 4)	rect (1) (Instr. 4)
<S> <C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
4/11/02	10/11/11	Class A common stock	50,000		400,000	D

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

/s/ Thomas A. Price 02/05/2002

 **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.