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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. 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*
Wright, Theodore M.

(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)
Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

7. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (check applicable line)
X 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 Indirect ship	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) (A) or Amount (D) Price	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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<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)
<S> <C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
Options to purchase	\$16.51	10/11/01	A	40,000

</TABLE>
<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

6. Date Expiration of In-Date direct 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:
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Official

(Instr. 5)

Officially

Direct

Owner-

Owned

(D) or

ship

at End

Indi-

Date (Instr. 4)

Expira-

Amount or

Exer-
cisable

tion
Date

Title

Number of
Shares

of Year
(Instr. 4)

rect (1)
(Instr. 4)

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

4/11/02	10/11/11	Class A common stock	40,000		456,376	D
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Explanation of Responses:

/s/ Theodore M. Wright 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.