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+-----+  
| FORM 5 | 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\*

Heller, H. Robert  
-----  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

90 Gilmartin Drive  
-----  
(Street)

Tiburon, CA 94920  
-----  
(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)

7. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (check applicable line)  
  
--- Form Filed by One Reporting Person  
  
\_\_\_ 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 2. Trans- 3. Trans- 4. Securities Acquired (A) 5. Amount of 6. Owner-  
7. Nature of In- action action or Disposed of (D) Securities ship  
(Instr. 3)

| direct        | Date    | Code       | (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |       | Beneficially     | Form:     |
|---------------|---------|------------|---------------------|-------|------------------|-----------|
| Bene-         | (Month/ | (Instr. 8) |                     |       | Owned at the     | Direct    |
| ficial        | Day/    |            |                     |       | end of           | (D) or    |
| Indirect      | Year)   |            |                     |       | Issuer's         | (I)       |
| ship          |         |            | (A) or              |       | Fiscal Year      | (Instr.   |
| 4) (Instr. 4) |         | Amount     | (D)                 | Price | (Instr. 3 and 4) | ) (Instr. |

<S> <C> <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                                   | \$7.80   | 3/30/01                              | A                              | 10,000   |

<CAPTION>

| 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date of In- | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security | 9. Number of Derivative Securities | 10. Ownership of Derivative Security |
|--|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| direct   |   |                                 |                                    |                                      |
| (Month/Day/                                    |   |                                 |                                    |                                      |
| Bene-  |   |                                 |                                    |                                      |

| Year)<br>ficial                |                    |                                    | ity<br>(Instr. 5)                | Bene-<br>ficially                        | rity:                                     |  |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Owner-<br>-----<br>ship        | -----<br>Date      | Expira-<br>tion<br>Date            | Amount or<br>Number of<br>Shares | Owned<br>at End<br>of Year<br>(Instr. 4) | (D) or<br>Indi-<br>rect (1)<br>(Instr. 4) |  |
| (Instr. 4)<br>Exer-<br>cisable |                    | Title                              |                                  |  |   |  |
| <S><br><C><br>9/30/01          | <C><br><br>3/30/11 | <C><br><br>Class A<br>common stock | <C><br><br>10,000                | <C><br><br>26,447                        | <C><br><br>D                              |  |

Explanation of Responses:

|                                 |        |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| /s/ H. Robert Heller            | 2-5-02 |
| -----                           | -----  |
| **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.