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 / OMB APPROVAL /  
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 / OMB Number: 3235-0287 /  
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 / Estimated average burden /  
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 | FORM 4 |  
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U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

[ ] Check this box if  
 no longer subject  
 to Section 16.  
 Form 4 or Form 5  
 obligations may  
 continue. See  
 Instruction 1(b).  
 (Print or Type Responses)

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

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

(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 3/02

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)  
 President and COO

7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (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 7. Nature of In- Security direct (Instr. 3) Bene- ficial Owner- ship 4) (Instr. 4)	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 End of Month (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Owner- ship Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr.
Class A Common Stock	3/12/02	S	20,000 D	\$32.00 41,500	D

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



Owner- ficially ship at (Instr. 4) Month(1) (Instr. 4)	Date Exer- cisable	Expira- tion Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	(Instr. 5)	ficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 4)	Bene- Owned End of
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<S> <C> <C> <C> <C> <C> <C> <C>

<C>

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

/s/ B. Scott Smith 4-10-02

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If this form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* 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.