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 / hours per response..... 0.5 /
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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).

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*

Price	Thomas	A.
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(Last)	(First)	(Middle)
2400 Bridgeway, Suite A-230		

(Street)		
Sausalito	CA	94965
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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 4/02

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)
 Vice Chairman

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

Class A Common Stock	4/30/02	S(1)	200,000	D	\$32.2648	800,355	I
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By reporting person as trustee for

The Price

Trust

Class A Common Stock	600	D
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</TABLE>

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	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)			Code	V	(A)
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
<C>					

</TABLE>

Table II--Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

11. Nature	6. Date Exercisable and	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Price of	9. Number of Deriv-	10. Owner-ship
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of In- Expiration (Instr. 3 and 4) Deriv- ative Form
direct Date ative Secur- of De-
rivative (Month/Day/ Secur- ities
Securities Beneficial Year) ity Bene-
Owner- ----- (Instr. ficially Bene-
ficially ship 5) Owned Owned
at (Instr. Date Expira- Amount or at End Owned
4) Exer- tion Title Number of of End of
 cisable Date Shares Month Month
 (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

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

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

(1) Sale pursuant to a variable prepaid forward contract, dated as of April 30, 2002, between the reporting person and Banc of America Securities LLC. The final sales prices and number of shares delivered are subject to adjustment upon settlement of the contract based on the closing price of the Issuer's Class A Common Stock on selected dates in April of 2005.

/s/ Thomas A. Price 5-8-02

**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.