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 / OMB APPROVAL /  
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 / OMB Number: 3235-0287 /  
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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\*

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 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 President and CFO

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-	2. Trans- action Date 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)
			Code V Amount (A) or Price		

ship				(D)				(Instr.)
4)	(Instr. 4)							
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
<C>								
Class A Common Stock	4/30/02	M	1,000	A	\$ 6.00			D
Class A Common Stock	4/30/02	S	1,000	D	\$38.00	43,775		D

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>				
Options to Purchase 1,000	\$6.00	4/30/02	M	

11. Nature of Indirect Ownership	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 4)
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<S> <C>	<C> 11/17/98	<C> 11/17/07	<C> Class A Common Stock	<C> 1,000	<C> 455,676	<C> D
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Explanation of Responses:

/s/ Theodore M. Wright	5-8-02
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**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.

