

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

FORM 5 APPROVAL
CHECK BOX IF NO LONGER
3235-0362
SUBJECT TO SECTION 16. FORM 4
SEPTEMBER 30, 1998
OR FORM 5 OBLIGATIONS MAY
AVERAGE BURDEN
CONTINUE. SEE INSTRUCTION 1(B).
RESPONSE.....1.0
FORM 3 HOLDINGS REPORTED
FORM 4 TRANSACTIONS REPORTED

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

OMB
OMB NUMBER
EXPIRES:
ESTIMATED
HOURS PER

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

<S> 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*
Person(s) to Issuer
_____ 10% Owner
_____ Other
(specify below)
Operating Officer
Smith, Bryan Scott

<C> 2. Issuer Name AND Ticker or
Trading Symbol
Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("SAH")

<C> 6. Relationship of Reporting
(Check all applicable)
___X___ Director
___X___ Officer
(give title below)
President and Chief

(Last) (First) (Middle)
5401 E. Independence Blvd.

(Street)
Applicable

3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person, (Voluntary)
4. Statement for Month/Year
12/98

5. If Amendment, Date of Original
6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (Check Line)
___X___ Form filed by One Reporting Person
___ Form filed by More than One
(Month/Year)

Charlotte, NC 28212

(City) (State) (Zip)
TABLE I-- NON-DERIVATIVE SECURITIES ACQUIRED, DISPOSED OF, OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED

7.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	
of		Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	Trans- action Code (Instr. 8)	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) ----- Amount (A) or (D)	Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	Owner- ship Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	Nature

(Over)

SEC 2270 (9-96)

*If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction

4(b)(v).

</TABLE>

<TABLE>

<CAPTION>

FORM 5 (CONTINUED)

TABLE II -- DERIVATIVE SECURITIES
ACQUIRED, DISPOSED OF, OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED
(E.G., PUTS, CALLS, WARRANTS, OPTIONS, CONVERTIBLE
SECURITIES)

10.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
11.									
Ownership							Title and		
Deriv-					Number of	Date Exer-	Amount of		of
ative					Derivative	cisable and	Underlying		
Security:	Conver-		Trans-		Securities	Expiration	Securities	Price	Number of
Direct	sion or	Trans-	action	or Disposed	Acquired (A)	Date (Month/ Day/Year)	(Instr. 3 and 4)	of Deriv-	Derivative
or	Exercise	action	Code	of (D)	or Disposed	-----	-----	ative	Benefi-
Title of	Nature of	Date	(Instr.	(Instr. 3,	of (D)	Date	Amount	Secur-	Owned at
Indirect	Indirect	(Month/ Day/ Year)	8)	4 and 5)	(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	Exer- Date	or Num-	ity	End of
Derivative	Deriv-				(A) (D)	cis- able	ber of	(Instr.	Year
Beneficial	ative					ation	Shares	5)	(Instr. 4)
Security	Ownership					Date	Title		4)
(Instr. 3)	Security								
(Instr. 4)									
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
<C>									

Options to purchase \$9.19 (1) 10/6/98 A 100,000 (1) (2) 10/6/08 Class A Common Stock 100,000 (1) \$9.19 (1) 299,750 D

