

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

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>
<S>

(Print or Type Responses)			<C>	<C>	<C>
1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*			2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)	4. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol	
Ippenplatz Mark J.			8/5/99	Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("SAH")	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	6. If Amendment, Original
Date of in c/o Sonic Automotive, Inc. (Month/Day/Year)					
6407 Idlewild Road			3. I.R.S. Identification (Check all applicable)		
(Street)			Number of Reporting Person	<input type="checkbox"/> Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) (specify below)	<input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Joint/Group Building 2, #111 Applicable Line) Charlotte, NC 28212 by One Reporting			(Voluntary)	Vice President-Corporate Development	7. Individual or Filing (Check Form filed Person Form filed -- Reporting
(City)	(State)	(Zip)			
by More than One					

Person
</TABLE>
<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

Table I - Non Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>
1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Class A Common Stock	3,000	D	

</TABLE>

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

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b) (v).

(Over)
SEC 1473 (7-97)

FORM 3 (continued)

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

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>
<S>

<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
1. Title of Derivative Security of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	3. Title and Amount of Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Security	5. Ownership Form of Security	6. Nature of Security: Direct (D) or	

Exer- tion
cisable Date

or
Number
of Shares

Indirect
(I)
(Instr. 5)

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

/s/ Mark J. Iuppenlatz	9/8/99
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** 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 is insufficient, See Instruction 6 for procedure.

Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained
in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently
valid OMB Number.