

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

<S>
FORM 4
[] CHECK THIS BOX IF NO LONGER
SUBJECT TO SECTION 16. FORM 4
OR FORM 5 OBLIGATIONS MAY
CONTINUE. SEE INSTRUCTION 1(B).

<C>
UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
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* Person(s) to Issuer	2. Issuer Name AND Ticker or Trading Symbol	6. Relationship of Reporting (Check all applicable)
X 10% Owner		X Director
----		----
Other		X Officer
----		----
(specify below)		(give title below)
Executive Officer		Chairman and Chief
Smith Ollen Bruton	Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("SAH")	See (1) and (2) below

(Last) (First) (Middle)	3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)	4. Statement for Month/Year
in c/o Sonic Automotive, Inc. 5401 East Independence Blvd.		8/99
-----		-----
(Street) Applicable	5. If Amendment, Date of Original	7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Line) ___ Form filed by One Reporting Person ___ Form filed by More than One
Reporting Person Charlotte, NC	28212 (Month/Year)	

TABLE I-- NON-DERIVATIVE SECURITIES ACQUIRED, DISPOSED OF, OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED

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

</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 4(b)(v)

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>
FORM 4 (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 of Derivative Security: Direct or Indirect Beneficial Security (Instr. 3) (Instr. 4)	Nature of Price of Indirect Derivative Security Ownership (Instr. 3) (Instr. 4)	Exercise Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) (Instr. 4)	Date (Month/Day/Year)	Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	Number of Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) (A) (D)	Date Expiration (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) or Number of Shares (Instr. 5)	Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 4)	Form of Derivative Security (D) (I) (4)
<S> <C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>

Put Options (obligation to buy) \$12.50 8/9/99 S 300(1) 8/9/99 11/20/99 Class A Common Stock 30,000(1) \$112.50 -0-

