

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

<S> FORM 4
[] CHECK THIS BOX IF NO LONGER
3235-0287
SUBJECT TO SECTION 16. FORM 4
EXPIRES: FEBRUARY 1, 1994
OR FORM 5 OBLIGATIONS MAY
AVERAGE BURDEN
CONTINUE. SEE INSTRUCTION 1(B).
RESPONSE.....0.5

<C> U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

<C> OMB APPROVAL
OMB NUMBER

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

(PRINT OR TYPE RESPONSES)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*
Person to Issuer

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or
Trading Symbol

6. Relationship of Reporting
(Check all applicable)
X Director

10% Owner

Officer

(specify below)

(give title below)

Belk William I. Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("SAH") See (1) and (2)
below

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. IRS Identification Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)

4. Statement for Month/Year

6100 Fairview Road, #640 8/99

(Street)

5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)

Charlotte, NC 28210

(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	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 Title of Beneficial Security Ownership (Instr. 3) (Instr. 4)	(Month/ Day/ Year)	(Instr. 8) ----- Code V	----- Amount				

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) These transactions reflect acquisitions of stock by Mr. Belk for the account of his daughter and two sons who shared his household, and are intended by Mr. Belk to be gifts to his daughter and two sons.
- (2) Mr. Belk disclaims beneficial ownership of all securities held by his daughter and sons, and this report should not be deemed an admission that the reporting person is the beneficial owner of such securities for purposes of Section 16 or for any other purpose.
- (3) On August 5, 1999, Mr. Belk wrote a put option on 5,000 shares of Sonic's Class A Common Stock (represented by 50 standardized option contracts for 100 shares each), which entitle the holder of the put option to require Mr. Belk, at the election of the holder, to purchase any or all of the shares at a price of \$12.50 per share at any time prior to November 20, 1999.

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations.
SEE 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a)

/s/ William I. Belk

** Signature of Reporting Person
William I. Belk

Sept. 7 1999

Date

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.

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