

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 Re-	4. Issuer Name and Ticker or	
Rachor Jeffrey C.			quiring Statement	Trading Symbol	
-----			(Month/Day/Year)	Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("SAH")	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	5/31/99 (1)	-----	
Date of				5. Relationship of Reporting	6. If Amendment,
				Person(s) to Issuer	Original
(Month/Day/Year)				-----	
5915 Brainerd Road			3. I.R.S. Identification	7. Individual or	
-----			(Check all applicable)	Filing (Check	
(Street)			Number of	X Director	10% Owner
Joint/Group			Reporting Person	X Officer (give	Other
			(Voluntary)	title below) (specify below)	
Applicable Line)				Vice President-Retail	X Form filed
Chattanooga, TN 37421				Operations	-- Person
by One Reporting				-----	Form filed
(City)	(State)	(Zip)			-- Reporting
by More than One					
Person					

</TABLE>
<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

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

Class A Common Stock	14,634	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>

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Date Exer-	3. Title and Amount of Securities	4. Conver-	5. Owner-	6. Nature
of Indirect	cisable and	Underlying Derivative Security	sion or	ship	
(Instr. 4)	Expiration	(Instr. 4)	Exercise	Form of	
Beneficial Ownership	Date		Price of	Deriv-	
(Instr. 5)	(Month/Day/		Deri-	ative	
	Year)		vative	Security:	
	-----		Security	Direct	
	Date	Title		(D) or	
	Exer-	Amount		Indirect	
	cisable	or		(I)	
	Date	Number			

				of Shares		(Instr. 5)
Options to purchase (2)	10/99	10/07	Class A Common Stock	27,416	\$6.00	D
Options to purchase (2)	10/00	10/07	Class A Common Stock	27,417	\$6.00	D
Options to purchase (3)	12/99	12/08	Class A Common Stock	6,667	\$15.03	D
Options to purchase (3)	12/00	12/08	Class A Common Stock	6,667	\$15.03	D
Options to purchase (3)	12/01	12/08	Class A Common Stock	6,666	\$15.03	D
Options to purchase (4)	5/00	5/09	Class A Common Stock	33,334	\$15.44	D
Options to purchase (4)	5/01	5/09	Class A Common Stock	33,333	\$15.44	D
Options to purchase (4)	5/02	5/09	Class A Common Stock	33,333	\$15.44	D

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) Mr. Rachor became a director of Sonic Automotive, Inc. on May 31, 1999.
- (2) These options were granted as part of one grant of 82,250 shares in November 1997 pursuant to the Company's 1997 Stock Option Plan.
- (3) These options were granted in one grant of 20,000 shares in December 1998 pursuant to the Company's 1997 Stock Option Plan.
- (4) These options were granted in one grant of 100,000 shares in May 1999 pursuant to the Company's 1997 Stock Option Plan.

** 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.

/s/ Jeffrey C. Rachor	9/9/99
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** Signature of Reporting Person	Date