

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): November 4, 1999

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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DELAWARE
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

<C>
1-13395
(Commission File Number)

<C>
56-201079
(I.R.S Employer
Identification No.)

5401 E. Independence Boulevard
(Address of principal executive offices)

28212
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (704) 532-3320

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed
since last report)

ITEM 5: OTHER EVENTS.

Please see Exhibit 99.1.

ITEM 7: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.

- (A) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF BUSINESS ACQUIRED. Not required.
(B) PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION. Not required.
(C) EXHIBITS.

Exhibit
Number Description of Exhibits

99.1 Press Release issued by Sonic on November 4, 1999 pertaining
to authorized stock repurchase of up to \$25 million.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the
registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the
undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.

Date: November 19, 1999 By: /s/ Theodore M. Wright.

THEODORE M. WRIGHT

VICE PRESIDENT-FINANCE, CHIEF FINANCIAL
OFFICER, TREASURER AND SECRETARY
(PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL AND ACCOUNTING OFFICER)

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE AUTHORIZES STOCK BUYBACK

CHARLOTTE, NC (NOVEMBER 4, 1999) - Sonic Automotive, Inc. (NYSE: SAH) today announced that its Board of Directors has authorized the Company to expend up to \$25,000,000 to repurchase outstanding shares of its Class A common stock or redeem securities convertible into Class A common stock. The Board's decision reflects its determination that the most recent per share closing price of SAH common stock (\$10 per share as of November 4, 1999) is not an appropriate valuation of the Company's common stock. Shares of common stock will be purchased from time to time in the open market subject to market conditions.

"The Board has confidence in the Company's strategy and the future of automobile retailing, and this buyback reflects our confidence. At current share prices, buying back the Company's stock is a sound use of our capital," stated O. Bruton Smith, the Company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Sonic Automotive, Inc. is the second largest automotive retailer in the United States, with operations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. Upon completion of announced acquisitions, Sonic will operate 159 franchises and 30 collision repair centers.

Included herein are forward-looking statements, including statements with respect to the Company's prospects and industry conditions. There are many factors which affect management's views about future events and trends of the Company's business. These factors involve risk and uncertainties that could cause actual results or trends to differ materially from management's view, including without limitation economic conditions, risks associated with acquisitions and the risk factors set forth from time to time in the Company's recent filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Contact: Theodore M. Wright, Chief Financial Officer of Sonic Automotive, Inc., (704) 532-3347. J. Todd Atenhan, Investor Relations of Sonic Automotive, Inc. (888) 766-4218. Val Holley-Dennis, Media Relations of Sonic Automotive, Inc. (704) 660-3424. Internet Address: www.sonicautomotive.com