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 | FORM 4 | UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 +-----+ Washington, D.C. 20549

[] Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.
 Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).
 (Print or Type Responses)

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*

Benton, William P.

 (Last) (First) (Middle)

 570 N. Lake Way

 (Street)

 Palm Beach, FL 33480

 (City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Sonic Automotive, Inc. (SAH)

3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)

4. Statement for Month/Year 5/02

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

6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)

Director Officer 10% Owner Other
 --- (give title below) (specify below)

7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)

Form filed by One Reporting Person

 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

<TABLE>
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Table I--Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

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

<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
<C>								
Class A Common Stock	5-3-02	M	5,000	A	\$7.25			D
Class A Common Stock	5-8-02	M	5,000	A	\$7.25			D
Class A Common Stock	5-3-02	S	5,000	D	\$38.20			D
Class A Common Stock	5-8-02	S	2,500	D	\$39.50			D
Class A Common Stock	5-8-02	S	2,500	D	\$39.00	2,500		D

</TABLE>

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) Securities	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Acquired (A) or Disposed of (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)
-------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------

(D)			Code	V	(A)
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<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
<C>					
Options to Purchase 5,000	\$7.25	5-3-02	M		
Options to Purchase 5,000	\$7.25	5-8-02	M		

</TABLE>

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

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

11. Nature of Indirect derivative Securities Owned beneficially at Month(1) (Instr. 4)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 4)
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<S> <C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
	9-20-98	3-20-08 Class A Common Stock	5,000		D
	9-20-98	3-20-08 Class A Common Stock	5,000	20,000	D

</TABLE>
Explanation of Responses:

/s/ William P. Benton 6-10-02

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

*If this form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

**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 provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.