



PERSON  
WITH

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  
-0-

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  
1,520,848

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON  
1,520,848

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES\*  
/ /

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)  
6.4% (see response to Item 4)

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*  
HC/CO

\*SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT

CUSIP No. 83545G102 13G Page 3 of 8 Pages

1. NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS  
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)

Robert Day

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP\*  
(a) / /  
(b) /X/

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

United States Citizen

NUMBER OF SHARES	5. SOLE VOTING POWER	-0-
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY	6. SHARED VOTING POWER	1,520,848
EACH REPORTING PERSON	7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER	-0-
WITH	8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER	1,520,848

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON  
1,520,848

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES\*  
/ /

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9)  
6.4% (see response to Item 4)

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON\*  
HC/IN

\*SEE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE FILLING OUT

Sonic Automotive, Inc.

Item 1(b). Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

5401 E. Independence Blvd.  
Charlotte, NC 28212

Item 2(a). Name of Persons Filing:

Item 2(b). Address of Principal Business Office, or if None, Residence:

Item 2(c). Citizenship:

The TCW Group, Inc.  
865 South Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
(Nevada Corporation)

Robert Day  
865 South Figueroa Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90017  
(United States Citizen)

Item 2(d). Title of Class of Securities:

Class A Common Stock

Item 2(e). CUSIP Number:

83545G102

Page 5 of 8 Pages

Item 3. If This Statement Is Filed Pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b) or (c), Check Whether the Person Filing is a:

- (a) / / Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Exchange Act.
- (b) / / Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Exchange Act.
- (c) / / Insurance company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Exchange Act.
- (d) / / Investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act.
- (e) / / An investment adviser in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E).
- (f) / / An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F).
- (g) /X/ A parent holding company or control person in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G).

(SEE Item 7)

The TCW Group, Inc.  
Robert Day (individual who may be deemed to control The TCW Group, Inc. and other entities which hold the Class A Common Stock of the issuer)

- (h) / / A savings association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.
  - (i) / / A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under Section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act.
  - (j) / / Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J).
- If this statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(c), check this box. / /

Page 6 of 8 Pages

Item 4. Ownership \*\*

THE TCW GROUP, INC.  
-----

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 1,520,848
- (b) Percent of class: 6.4%
- (c) Number of shares as to which such person has:
  - (i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote:  
none.
  - (ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote:  
1,520,848
  - (iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition  
of: none.
  - (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition  
of: 1,520,848

ROBERT DAY \*\*\*  
-----

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 1,520,848
- (b) Percent of class: 6.4%
- (c) Number of shares as to which such person has:
  - (i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote:  
none.
  - (ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote:  
1,520,848
  - (iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition of:  
none.
  - (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:  
1,520,848

-----

\*\* The filing of this Schedule 13G shall not be construed as an admission that the reporting person or any of its affiliates is, for the purposes of Section 13(d) or 13(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the beneficial owner of any securities covered by this Schedule 13G. In addition, the filing of this Schedule 13G shall not be construed as an admission that the reporting person or any of its affiliates is the beneficial owner of any securities covered by this Schedule 13G for any other purposes than Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

\*\*\* Shares reported for Robert Day include shares reported for The TCW Group, Inc.

Page 7 of 8 Pages

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following / /.

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

Various persons other than as described in Item 4 have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, the Class A Common Stock of Sonic Automotive, Inc.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company.

SEE Exhibit A.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not applicable. SEE Exhibits A and B.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not applicable.

Item 10. Certification.

Because this statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), the following certification is included:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

Page 8 of 8 Pages

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Dated this 11th day of February, 2000.

The TCW Group, Inc.

By: /s/ Philip K. Holl  
-----  
Philip K. Holl  
Authorized Signatory

Robert Day

By: /s/ Philip K. Holl  
-----  
Philip K. Holl  
Under Power of Attorney dated  
January 19, 2000, on File with  
Schedule 13G Amendment Number 2  
for J. Baker, Inc. dated  
January 20, 2000.

EXHIBIT A  
RELEVANT SUBSIDIARIES OF PARENT HOLDING COMPANY

PART A: TCW ENTITIES

PARENT HOLDING COMPANY:

The TCW Group, Inc.

Robert Day (an individual who may be deemed to control The TCW Group, Inc.)

RELEVANT SUBSIDIARIES THAT ARE PERSONS DESCRIBED IN RULE 13d-1(b):

(i) TCW Asset Management Company, a California corporation and an Investment Adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

(ii) TCW Investment Management Company, a California corporation and an Investment Adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

(iii) TCW/Crescent Mezzanine, L.L.C., a California corporation and an Investment Adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

Note: No Class A Common Stock of Sonic Automotive, Inc. is held directly by The TCW Group, Inc. Other than the indirect holdings of The TCW Group, Inc., no Class A Common Stock of Sonic Automotive, Inc. is held directly or indirectly by Robert Day, an individual who may be deemed to control The TCW Group, Inc.

PART B: NON TCW ENTITIES

PARENT HOLDING COMPANY:

Robert Day (an individual who may be deemed to control the entities described below which are not subsidiaries of The TCW Group, Inc.)

RELEVANT SUBSIDIARIES THAT ARE PERSONS DESCRIBED IN RULE 13d-1(b):

Oakmont Corporation, a California corporation and an Investment Adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

EXHIBIT B  
JOINT FILING AGREEMENT

The undersigned acknowledge and agree that the foregoing statement on Schedule 13G is filed on behalf of each of the undersigned and that all subsequent amendments to this statement on Schedule 13G shall be filed on behalf of each of the undersigned without the necessity of filing additional joint acquisition statements. The undersigned acknowledge that each shall be responsible for the timely filing of such amendments, and for the completeness and accuracy of the information concerning him or it contained therein, but shall not be responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the information concerning the other, except to the extent that he or it knows or has reason to believe that such information is accurate.

Dated this 11th day of February, 2000.

The TCW Group, Inc.

By: /s/ Philip K. Holl

-----  
Philip K. Holl  
Authorized Signatory

Robert Day

By: /s/ Philip K. Holl

-----  
Philip K. Holl  
Under Power of Attorney dated  
January 19, 2000, on File with  
Schedule 13G Amendment Number 2  
for J. Baker, Inc. dated  
January 20, 2000.