

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL	
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

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)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * SMITH O BRUTON			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH]			5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) Chairman and CEO		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/28/2012					
C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 5401 EAST INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD								
(Street)			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		
CHARLOTTE, NC 28212								
(City) (State) (Zip)			Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned					
1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	

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

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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)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	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 Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
						Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares					
Class B Common Stock	(5)	12/28/2012		G	V	0 (1)	(5)	(5)	Class A Common Stock	0 (1)	(1)	8,881,250	I	by Holdings and SFC (2)
Class B Common Stock	(5)	12/28/2012		J		0 (3)	(5)	(5)	Class A Common Stock	0 (3)	(3)	8,881,250	I	by Holdings and SFC (2)
Class B Common Stock	(5)	12/28/2012		J		0 (4)	(5)	(5)	Class A Common Stock	0 (4)	(4)	8,881,250	I	by Holdings and SFC (2)
Class B Common Stock	(5)						(5)	(5)	Class A Common Stock	2,171,250		2,171,250	D	
Class B Common Stock	(5)	12/31/2012		G	V	0 (6)	(5)	(5)	Class A Common Stock	0 (6)	(6)	8,881,250	I	by Holdings and SFC (2)
Class B Common Stock	(5)	01/02/2013		G	V	0 (6)	(5)	(5)	Class A Common Stock	0 (6)	(6)	8,881,250	I	by Holdings and SFC (2)

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SMITH O BRUTON C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. 5401 EAST INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD CHARLOTTE, NC 28212	X	X	Chairman and CEO	

Signatures

/s/ O. Bruton Smith	01/02/2013
<small>**Signature of Reporting Person</small>	<small>Date</small>

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the 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).
- (1) The reporting person gifted a 3.1685% interest in OBS Holdings, LLC, a North Carolina limited liability company ("Holdings"), to O. Bruton Smith Family Irrevocable Trust dated December 11, 2012 (the "Trust"), the beneficiaries of which are Mr. Smith's children and lineal descendants. The reporting person is the sole manager and a member of Holdings.
Reflects securities held by Holdings and Sonic Financial Corporation ("SFC"). The reporting person is the chief executive officer and majority shareholder of SFC. SFC owns directly
- (2) 8,881,250 shares of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class B Common Stock. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of shares held by SFC and interests in Holdings, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
- (3) The reporting person sold an 11.8819% interest in Holdings to OBS Family, LLC, a North Carolina limited liability company ("Family"). The reporting person is the sole manager of Family. Family is owned equally by each of the reporting person's children.
- (4) The reporting person sold an 11.8315% interest in Holdings to the Trust.
- (5) Shares of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class B Common Stock are convertible into shares of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class A Common Stock on a 1-for-1 basis at the option of the reporting person and there is no expiration date.
- (6) The reporting person gifted a less than 1% interest in SFC to each of his four children.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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