

---

**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): October 28, 2003

---

**SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Delaware

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

1-13395

(Commission File Number)

56-201079

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

5401 E. Independence Boulevard, Charlotte, North Carolina  
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

28212  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (704) 566-2400

---

---

**Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure**

On October 28, 2003, we issued a press release announcing the approval of a quarterly cash dividend.

A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this current report on Form 8-K to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.

By: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ Stephen K. Coss

Stephen K. Coss  
Vice President and General Counsel

Dated: October 28, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. DECLARES QUARTERLY DIVIDEND***

**CHARLOTTE, NC (October 28, 2003)**— Sonic Automotive, Inc. (NYSE: SAH) today announced that its Board of Directors has approved a quarterly dividend of \$0.10 per share for shareholders of record on December 15, 2003. The dividend will be payable January 15, 2004.

O. Bruton Smith, the Company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer stated, "Sonic Automotive initiated the dividend program last quarter to redirect a portion of capital that was previously used for share repurchases. The dividend program was well received and we are pleased to announce this second quarterly payment."

**About Sonic Automotive, Inc.**

Sonic Automotive, Inc., a Fortune 300 Company, is one of the largest automotive retailers in the United States operating 192 franchises and 42 collision repair centers. Sonic can be reached on the Web at [www.sonicautomotive.com](http://www.sonicautomotive.com).

Included herein are forward-looking statements, including statements with respect to anticipated cash dividends to shareholders and share repurchase activity. There are many factors that 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 described in the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated October 2, 2003. The Company does not undertake any obligation to update forward-looking information.

Contact: E. Lee Wyatt, Chief Financial Officer of Sonic Automotive (704) 566-2415  
J. Todd Atenhan, Investor Relations of Sonic Automotive, Inc. (888) 766-4218  
Bill Steers, Media Relations of Sonic Automotive, Inc. (888) 766-4219