
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): February 24, 2004

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 February 24, 2004, 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: February 24, 2004

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. DECLARES QUARTERLY DIVIDEND

CHARLOTTE, NC (February 24, 2004) – 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 March 15, 2004. The dividend will be payable April 15, 2004.

About Sonic Automotive, Inc.

Sonic Automotive, Inc., a Fortune 300 Company, is one of the largest automotive retailers in the United States operating 190 franchises and 40 collision repair centers. Sonic can be reached on the Web at www.sonicautomotive.com.

Included herein is a forward-looking statement pertaining to an anticipated cash dividend to shareholders. 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 Exhibit 99.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2003. The Company does not undertake any obligation to update forward-looking information.