

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

<S>

<C>

<C>

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

OMB APPROVAL

FORM 4

[] Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.
Number: 3235-0287
Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See

OMB

instruction 1(b).
December 31, 2001

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Expires:

average burden
(Print or Type Responses)
response...0.5

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

Estimated
hours per

1. Name and Address of
Persons
Reporting Person*

2. Issuer Name and Ticker
or Trading Symbol

6. Relationship of Reporting

to Issuer
(Check all applicable)

Brooks, William R.

Sonic Automotive, Inc. (SAH)

x Director 10% Owner

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. I.R.S. Identification
Number of Reporting

4. Statement for
Month/Year

Officer Other

(specify below)

5401 E. Independence Blvd.

Person, if an entity
(voluntary)

12/01

(give
title
below)

(Street)

Filing (Check

5. If Amendment,

7. Individual or Joint/Group

Date of
Original

Applicable Line)
x Form filed by One

Reporting Person

Charlotte, NC 28212

(Month/Year)

Form filed by More than

One Reporting

Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

1. Title of Security
Amount of
(Instr. 3)
Securities

2. Transaction Date

3. Transaction

4. Securities Acquired (A)

5.

Beneficially Owned

at End of Month

(Month/Day/Year)

(Instr. 3 and 4)

Code V Amount (A)
or (D) Price

Class A Common Stock

12/17/01

M

20,000

A

\$7.25

Class A Common Stock

12/17/01

S

20,000

D

\$22.00

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

6. Ownership Form:	7. Nature of
Direct (D) or	Indirect
Indirect (I)	Beneficial
(Instr. 4)	Ownership
	(Instr. 4)

D

D

</TABLE>

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

1. Title of Exercisable Derivative Expiration Date Security (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (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 and
---	---	---	--------------------------------------	--	----------------

Expiration Exercisable	Date		Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date
<S> <C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	
Option to 3/20/08 Purchase	\$7.25	12/17/01	M			20,000	9/20/98

<CAPTION>

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 Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
---	--	--	---	--

Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
Class A Common Stock	20,000		55,000	D	

Explanation of Responses:

</TABLE>

/s/ William R. Brooks

1/4/02

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

*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).

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