FORM 5 OMB APPROVAT. [] Check box if no longer subject to OMB Number: 3236-0362 Expires: December 31, 2001 Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruc-Estimated average burden tions 1(b). hours per response....1.0 [] Form 3 Holdings Reported [] Form 4 Transactions Reported UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP 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 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Belk William I. (Last) (First) (Middle) 6100 Fairview Road, #640 _____ (Street) Charlotte NC 28210 (City) (State) (Zip) 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("SAH") _____ 3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary) 4. Statement for Month/Year 12/99 5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year) _____ 6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) [X] Director [] 10% Owner [] Officer (give title below) [] Other (specify below) _____ 7. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (check applicable line) [X] Form Filed by One Reporting Person [] Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person Table 1 -- Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned <TABLE> <CAPTION> 2. Transaction 3. Transaction 4. Securities Acquired (A) 5. Amount of 1. Title of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of Date (Month/ Code or Disposed of (D) Securities Security Form: Dir- Indirect (Instr. 3) Day/Year) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Beneficially ect (D) or Benefic-Owned at end of Indirect ial Own-(I) Issuer's Fiscal (Instr. 4) ership

Amount (A) or (D) Price

(Instr. 3 and 4)

(Instr.4)

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							If the form is file 4(b)(v).	ed by more than	one reporting per	son, see instru	ction			
			S	(Over) EC 2270 (9-96)										
Form 5 (continued)														
		s Acquired, Dispo nts, options, con												
	2 Conversion	3. Transaction	4 Transaction	5 Number of	6. Date Exe	arcisable	7. Title							
and Amount														
Derivative Underlying	or Exercise	Date (Month/	Code	Derivative	and Expi	iration	of							
Security Securities	Price of	Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Securities	Date (Mo	onth/								
(Instr. 3)	Derivative	Derivative		Acquired (A)	Day/Year)									
(Instr. 3 and 4)	Security	Security		or Disposed										
				of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	Date	Expira-								
Amount or														
Number of				(7)	Exer-	tion								
Title Shares				(A) (D)										
Options to purchase A 10,000	\$14.50	3/31/99	А	10,000	9/30/99	3/31/09	Class							
Common Stock														
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<caption> 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)</caption>	Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
	10,000	D		

 | | | || Explanation of | Responses: | | | |
| | | | | |

/s/ V	Villiam	n I.	. Belk		2/9/00
**Sign	nature	of	Reporting	Person	Date

** 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 provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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