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

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 | FORM 5 |
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Check box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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

Form 3 Holdings Reported

Form 4 Transactions Reported

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*

Price,	Thomas	A.
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)
2400 Bridgeway, Suite A-230		
(Street)		
Sausalito,	CA	94965
(City)	(State)	(Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Sonic Automotive, Inc. (SAH)

3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (Voluntary) _____

4. Statement for Month/Year 12/00

5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year) _____

6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)

Director
 Officer (give title below)
 10% Owner
 Other (specify below)

Vice Chairman

7. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (check applicable line)

Form Filed by One Reporting Person

Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

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

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

1. Title of Security 7. Nature (Instr. 3) of In- direct Bene- ficial	2. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	3. Trans- action Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at the end of Issuer's	6. Owner- ship Form: Direct (D) or
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------

Indirect ship	Owner-	(A) or (D)	Amount (D)	Price	Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	(I) (Instr.
4)	(Instr. 4)					
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
<C>						

</TABLE>
 * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see instruction 4(b)(v).

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) Securities	2. Con- version or Exercise Price of Deriv- ative Security	3. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	4. Transac- tion Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Deriv- ative Acquired (A) or Disposed of (Instr. 3, 4, (A)
(D) and 5)				
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
<C>				
Options to purchase	\$8.19	2/9/00	A	300,000
Options to purchase	\$7.94	10/5/00	A	50,000

</TABLE>

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date of In- direct Bene- ficial Owner- ship (Instr. 4) Exercisable	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) Title Number of Shares	8. Price of Derivative Securities (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Bene- ficially Owned at End of Year (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership of Derivative Securities: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)

<S> <C> <C> <C> <C> <C>

(1)	2/9/10	Class A Common Stock	300,000		D
4/5/01	10/5/10	Class A Common Stock	50,000	350,000	D

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The options to purchase 300,000 shares of Class A Common Stock shown above will vest in three (3) equal annual installments beginning December 10, 2000.

/s/ Thomas A. Price February 12, 2001
**Signature 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.