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| FORM 5 |
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UNITED STATES
 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549

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*

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Brooks,                William                R.
-----
  (Last)                (First)                (Middle)

c/o Sonic Automotive, Inc. 5401 E. Independence Blvd.
-----
                           (Street)

Charlotte,             NC                28212
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  (City)                (State)                (Zip)

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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)

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

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

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_X_ Form Filed by One Reporting Person
___ Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

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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 Indirect	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

ship		(A) or	Fiscal Year	(I)
4) (Instr. 4)	Amount	(D)	(Instr. 3 and 4)	(Instr.
<S>	<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)

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) Securities	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Acquired (A) or Disposed of (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)
(D)				(A)

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

Options to purchase	\$8.88	3/31/00	A	10,000
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Options to purchase	\$11.19	4/28/00	A	25,000
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</TABLE>

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

6. Date Exercisable and Expiration of In- direct Bene- ficial Owner- ship Date (Instr. 4) Exer- cisable	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) Title Number of Shares	8. Price of Deriv- ative Secur- ities ity (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Deriv- ative Secur- ities Bene- ficially Owned at End of Year (Instr. 4)	10. Owner- ship of De- rivative Secu- rity: Direct (D) or Indi- rect (1) (Instr. 4)
<S> <C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
9/30/00	3/31/10 Class A Common Stock	10,000		D
(1)	4/28/10 Class A Common Stock	25,000	65,000	D

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The options to purchase 25,000 shares of Class A Common Stock shown above will vest in three (3) equal annual installments beginning April 28, 2001.

/s/ William R. Brooks

1/17/01

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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.