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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*

Benton, William P.

 (Last) (First) (Middle)

 355 Martell Drive

 (Street)

 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

 (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 12/01

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

6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 Director Officer 10% Owner Other
 (give title below) (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 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 ship	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) Amount (D) Price	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at the end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Owner- ship Form: Direct (D) or (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)

<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)
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(D)

(A)

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

Options to purchase	\$7.80	3/30/01	A	10,000
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</TABLE> <TABLE> <CAPTION>

6. Date Expiration	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative	9. Number of Derivative	10. Ownership of Derivative
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