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

+-----+
| FORM 5 |
+-----+

- [] 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*
Belk, William I.
6100 Fairview Road, #640
Charlotte, NC 28210
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)
[X] Director [] Officer [] 10% Owner [] Other
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>

Table with 6 columns: 1. Title of Security, 2. Trans-action Date, 3. Trans-action Code, 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D), 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at the end of Issuer's Fiscal Year, 6. Owner-ship Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I). Includes placeholder text like <S>, <C>, <A>, <D>, <P>, <Y>, <I>.

</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	\$7.80	3/30/01	A	10,000

</TABLE>

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date of In- direct Beneficial Owner-	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially	10. Ownership of Derivative Security: Direct
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ship Date (Instr. 4) Exer- cisable	Expira- tion Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Owned at End of Year (Instr. 4)	(D) or Indi- rect (1) (Instr. 4)
<S> <C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>
9/30/01	3/30/11	Class A common stock	10,000	20,000	D

</TABLE>

Explanation of Responses:

/s/ William I. Belk February 6, 2002

 **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.