

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>
FORM 5
APPROVAL

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

OMB

CHECK BOX IF NO LONGER
3235-0362

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

OMB NUMBER

SUBJECT TO SECTION 16. FORM 4
SEPTEMBER 30, 1998

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

EXPIRES:

OR FORM 5 OBLIGATIONS MAY
AVERAGE BURDEN

ESTIMATED

CONTINUE. SEE INSTRUCTION 1(B).
RESPONSE.....1.0

HOURS PER

FORM 3 HOLDINGS REPORTED
FORM 4 TRANSACTIONS REPORTED

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

<S>
1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*
Person(s) to Issuer

<C>
2. Issuer Name AND Ticker or

<C>
6. Relationship of Reporting

Trading Symbol

(Check all applicable)

10% Owner

Director

Other
(specify below)

Officer

(give title below)

Chairman and Chief Executive

Officer
Smith, Ollen Bruton

Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("SAH")

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. IRS
or Social
Security
Number of
Reporting
Person,
(Voluntary)

4. Statement
for
Month/Year

5401 E. Independence Blvd.

12/98

(Street)
Applicable

5. If
Amendment,
Date of
Original

7. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (Check
Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One

Reporting Person

(Month/Year)

Charlotte, NC 28212

(City) (State) (Zip)

TABLE I-- NON-DERIVATIVE SECURITIES ACQUIRED, DISPOSED OF, OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED

7.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
of		Trans- action	Trans- action	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)	Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at	Owner- ship Form: Direct
Indirect	Date	Code	(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	End of	(D) or	Nature
Title of	(Month/	(Instr. 8)	-----	Issuer's	Indirect	
Beneficial	Day/	-----	Amount (A) or Price	Fiscal Year	(I)	
Security	Year)		(D)	(Instr.	(Instr. 4)	
Ownership				3 and 4)		
(Instr. 3)						
(Instr. 4)						

(Over)

SEC 2270 (9-96)
*If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction
4(b)(v).
</TABLE>

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<CAPTION>

FORM 5 (CONTINUED)

TABLE II -- DERIVATIVE SECURITIES
ACQUIRED, DISPOSED OF, OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED
(E.G., PUTS, CALLS, WARRANTS, OPTIONS, CONVERTIBLE
SECURITIES)

10.	1.	11.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.				
Ownership								Title and						
Deriv-						Number of	Date Exer-	Amount of		of				
ative						Derivative	cisable and	Underlying						
Security:	Conver-			Trans-	Acquired (A)	Securities	Expiration	Securities	Price	Derivative				
Direct	sion or	Trans-		action	or Disposed		Date (Month/ Day/Year)	(Instr. 3 and 4)	Deriv-	Benefi-				
or Nature of	Exercise	action		Code	of (D)		-----	-----	ative	cially				
Title of	Nature of			(Instr.	(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	Date	Date	Amount	Secur-	Owned at				
Indirect	Price of	Date		8)		Exer-	Expir-	or Num-	ity	End of				
Derivative	Deriv-	(Month/ Day/ Year)		-----	-----	cis-	ation	ber of	(Instr.	Year				
Beneficial	Security				(A) (D)	able	Date	Title	5)	(Instr. 4)				
Security	Ownership							Shares						
(Instr. 3)	Security													
(Instr. 4)														
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>				
<C>														
Options to	\$9.19	(1)	10/6/98	A	200,000	(1)	(2)	10/6/08	Class A Common Stock	200,000 (1)	\$9.19	(1)	200,000	D

