

<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>

<S>  
FORM 4  
[ ] CHECK THIS BOX IF NO LONGER  
SUBJECT TO SECTION 16. FORM 4  
OR FORM 5 OBLIGATIONS MAY  
CONTINUE. SEE INSTRUCTION 1(B).

<C>  
UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person\*      2. Issuer Name AND Ticker or      6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to  
Issuer      Trading Symbol      (Check all applicable)

Owner      \_\_\_\_\_       Director      \_\_\_\_\_ 10%

Other      \_\_\_\_\_       Officer      \_\_\_\_\_  
below)      (give title below)      (specify

Higginbotham      Dennis D.      Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("SAH")      President-Retail Operations

(Last)      (First)      (Middle)      3. IRS      4. Statement  
Identification      for  
Number of      Month/Year  
Reporting      Person, if  
Person, if      an entity  
(Voluntary)

P.O. Box 770      3/99

(Street)      5. If      7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable  
Amendment,      Line)  
Date of       Form filed by One Reporting Person  
Original      \_\_\_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person  
(Month/Year)

New Smyrna Beach, FL 32170

(City)      (State)      (Zip)      TABLE I-- NON-DERIVATIVE SECURITIES ACQUIRED, DISPOSED OF, OR BENEFICIALLY OWNED

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

Class A Common Stock	3/2/99	S	7,500	D	\$17.25	963,088	D
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Class A Common Stock	3/4/99	S	1,000	D	\$17.25	962,088	D
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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. (Over) \*If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, SEE Instruction 4(b)(v).

<TABLE>  
<CAPTION>

FORM 4 (CONTINUED)

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

11.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
Nature of Title of Indirect Derivative Beneficial Security Ownership (Instr. 3) (Instr. 4)	Price of Derivative Security	Date (Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8) Code V	(Instr. 4 and 5) (A) (D)	Date (Month/Day/Year) Expiration Date	Exercisable and Expiration Date	Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 4)	Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)
<S>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>

Explanation of Responses:

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. SEE 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a)

/s/ Dennis D. Higginbotham  
\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

4/12/99  
Date

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, SEE Instruction 6 for procedure.

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Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.

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