

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

<S> FORM 4 APPROVAL [] CHECK THIS BOX IF NO LONGER 3235-0287
SUBJECT TO SECTION 16. FORM 4 DECEMBER 31, 2001
OR FORM 5 OBLIGATIONS MAY AVERAGE BURDEN CONTINUE. SEE INSTRUCTION 1(B).
RESPONSE.....0.5

<C> UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

<C> OMB
OMB NUMBER:
EXPIRES:
ESTIMATED
HOURS PER

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

(PRINT OR TYPE RESPONSES)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
_____ 10% Owner
_____ Other
(specify below)

2. Issuer Name AND Ticker or Trading Symbol
Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("SAH")

6. Relationship of Reporting Person
(Check all applicable)
___X___ Director
___X___ Officer
(give title below)

Smith Bryan Scott
Officer
Sonic Automotive, Inc. ("SAH")
President & Chief Operating Officer

(Last) (First) (Middle)
Smith Bryan Scott

3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (Voluntary)
28212

4. Statement for Month/Year
8/99

c/o Sonic Automotive, Inc.
5401 East Independence Boulevard

(Street) Applicable
5401 East Independence Boulevard

5. If Amendment, Date of Original
28212
(Month/Year)

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

Reporting Person
Charlotte NC 28212

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

2. Trans- action Date
1. Title of Beneficial Security

3. Trans- action Code
(Instr. 8)

4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)
(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)
Amount (A) or Price

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month
(Instr.)

6. Owner- ship Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I)

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

Put Options (obligation to buy) \$12.50 8/5/99 S 100(1) 8/5/99 11/20/99 Class A Common Stock 10,000(1) \$106.25 -0- D

Put Options (obligation to buy) \$12.50 8/5/99 S 100(2) 8/5/99 11/20/99 Class A Common Stock 10,000(2) \$106.25 -0- D

Put Options (obligation to buy) \$10.00 8/5/99 S 100(3) 8/13/99 11/20/99 Class A Common Stock 10,000(3) \$87.50 -0- D

Explanation of Responses: Please see attached Annex A.

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. SEE 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a). /s/ B. Scott Smith 9/8/99 ** Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

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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</TABLE>

Annex A to Form 4 of Bryan Scott Smith

- 1. On August 5, 1999, Mr. Smith wrote a put option on 10,000 shares of Sonic's Class A Common Stock... 2. In a separate transaction that also occurred on August 5, 1999, Mr. Smith wrote a put option on 10,000 shares of Sonic's Class A Common Stock... 3. On August 13, 1999, Mr. Smith wrote a put option on 10,000 shares of Sonic's Class A Common Stock...

to require Mr. Smith, at the election of the holder, to purchase any or all of the shares at a price of \$10.00 per share at any time prior to November 20, 1999.