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<S> FORM 4 APPROVAL [] CHECK THIS BOX IF NO LONGER 3235-0287
<C> UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
<C> OMB OMB NUMBER
SUBJECT TO SECTION 16. FORM 4 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP EXPIRES:
DECEMBER 31, 2001 OR FORM 5 OBLIGATIONS MAY ESTIMATED
AVERAGE BURDEN CONTINUE. SEE INSTRUCTION 1(B). HOURS PER
RESPONSE.....0.5

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
X 10% Owner

Other

(specify below)
Smith Ollen Bruton
CEO

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

6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
(Check all applicable)
X Director

X Officer

(give title below)
Chairman and

(Last) (First) (Middle)
c/o Sonic Automotive, Inc.
5401 East Independence Blvd.

3. IRS Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (Voluntary)
4. Statement for Month/Year
11/99

5. If Applicable (Street)
Charlotte NC 28212
Reporting Person

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

___ Form filed by More than One

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

7. Nature of Ownership
Indirect
1. Title of Security Ownership
2. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/)
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)

(Instr. 3) 4) (Instr. 4)	Year)	Code	V	(D)	3 and 4)	(Instr.
Class A Common Stock	11-19-99	X	30,000	A	\$12.50 \$30,000	D

</TABLE>

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

*If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, SEE Instruction 4(b) (v).

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 CONTROL NUMBER.

(over)
Sec 1474(3-99)

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FORM 4 (CONTINUED)

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

1. Title of Amount Derivative Num- Security ber of (Instr. 3) Shares	2. Conver- sion or Exercise Price of Deriv- ative Security	3. Trans- action Date (Month/ Day/ Year)	4. Trans- action Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (A) (D)	6. Date Exer- cisable and Expiration Date (Month/ Day/Year) Exer- cis- able Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) Title
Put Options 30,000	(Obligation to buy) \$12.50	11-19-99	X	300	8-19-99 11-20-99	Class A Common Stock

8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
<C>	<C>	<C>	<C>

-0- D

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/ Bruton Smith

** Signature of Reporting Person

12/8/99

Date

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

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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