			/ OMB APPROVAL	, ,			
			/ OMB Number: 3235-0287 / Expires: December 31, 2001 / Estimated average burden / hours per response 0.5	, / / /			
	+ FORM 4		ITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION				
	Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).						
(Pı	rint or Type Responses)						
 1.	Name and Address of Re						
	Benton	Wiiliam	Р.				
	(Last)	(First) owers West, Ste. 1610	(Middle)				
	Dearborn	MI	48126				
	(City)	(State)	(Zip)				
2.	Issuer Name and Tickle	er or Trading Symbol	Sonic Automotive, Inc.(SAH)				
3.	I.R.S. Identification (voluntary)	Number of Reporting I	Person, if an entity				
4.	Statement for Month/Ye	ear	08/01				
5.	If Amendment, Date of	Original (Month/Year)	, 				
6.	Relationship of Report	ing Person(s) to Issu	uer (Check all applicable)				
	X Director Of	Eficer	_ 10% Owner Other				
		give title below)	(specify below	7)			
7.	Individual or Joint/Gr						
	X Form filed by One						
	Form filed by More	e than One Reporting I	Person				
Tak	ole INon-Derivative Se	ecurities Acquired, Di	isposed of, or Beneficially Owned	l			
<ci< td=""><td>ABLE> APTION></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></ci<>	ABLE> APTION>						
	Title 2. T	rans- 3. Trans-	4. Securities Acquired (A)	5. Am	ount of	6.	Owner-
		action action	or Disposed of (D)	Se	curities		ship
)ate Code	(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	Ве	neficially		Form:
		(Month/ (Instr. 8)		Ow	ned at		Direct
1 ت ر		Day/		- En	d of		(D) or

Month

ficial

Year)

Indirect Owner-ship 4) (Instr. 4)		Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)	(I) (Instr.	
<c> Class A Common Stock</c>	C> 08/02/01		<c></c>	<c></c>	<c></c>	<c> \$8.87</c>	<c></c>	<c></c>	
Class A Common Stock	08/02/01			10,000	A	\$14.50		D	
Class A Common Stock	08/22/01				A	\$7.25		D	
Class A Common Stock	08/02/01			10,000	D			D	
Class A Common Stock	08/02/01			10,000	D	\$22.1188		D	
Class A Common Stock	08/22/01				D		2,500	D	
	Table						or Beneficially Owned		
<table> <caption></caption></table>									
1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)		2. Cor	nver- on or		Trans- action	4. Trans tion		ber of Deriv [.] ve	
Securities			ercise ce of	Date (Month/		(Inst		Acquired (A) or Disposed of	
(D) and 5)		ati	civ- .ve curity		Day/ Year)		(In	str. 3, 4,	
(D)						Code	V (A)	
		<c></c>		<c></c>		<c></c>	<c> <c></c></c>		
Options to 10,000 Purchase		\$8.	.87	08/	02/01	М			
Options to 10,000 Purchase		\$14	1.50		02/01	М			
Options to 10,000 Purchase		\$7.	.25		22/01	М			
			-			- -			

<caption></caption>							
11. Na- ture	6. Date E	xer- e and	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities			9. Number of Deriv- ative	10. Owner ship
of In-	Expiration (Instr. 3 and 4)			and 4)	ative	Secur-	of
De- direct	Date (Month/Day/				Secur-	ities	OI
rivative Bene-	Year)				ity	Bene-	
Securities ficial					(Instr.	ficially	Bene-
Owner-					5)	Owned	
ficially ship	Date	Expira-		Amount or		at End	Owned
at (Instr. of 4)	Exer-	tion	Title	Number of		of	End
Month(1)	cisable	Date		Shares		Month	
(Instr. 4)						(Instr. 4)	
<pre><s> <c></c></s></pre>	<c></c>	<c></c>	<c></c>	<c></c>	<c></c>	<c></c>	<c></c>
Options to Purchase	09/31/00	03/31/10	Class A Common Stock				
Options to Purchase		03/31/09	Class A Common Stock	10,000			
Options to Purchase	09/20/98	03/20/08	Class A Common Stock	10,000		20,000	D

 | | | | | | || Explanation of Responses: | | | | | | | |
| /s/ William P. Bent | on | 0: | 9/06/01 | | | | |
Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

 * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see

Instruction 4(b)(v).

** 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 is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.