

<p align="center">FORM 5</p> <p>[] Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).</p> <p>[] Form 3 Holdings Reported</p> <p>[] Form 4 Transactions Reported</p>	<p>UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549</p> <p>ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP</p> <p>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</p>	<p align="center">OMB APPROVAL</p> <hr/> <p>OMB Number: 3235-0362 Expires: January 31, 2005 Estimated average burden hours per response. 1.0</p>
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<p>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person Benton, William P.</p> <p>(Last) (First) (Middle)</p> <p>355 Martell Drive</p> <p>(Street)</p> <p>Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304</p> <p>(City) (State) (Zip)</p>	<p>2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol</p> <p>Sonic Automotive, Inc. sah</p>	<p>4. Statement for Month/Year</p> <p>12/31/2002</p>	<p>6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)</p> <p>Description</p> <p>7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person</p>
<p>Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned</p>			

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Amount / A/D / Price			
				// \$			

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr.8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	6. Date Exercisable(DE) and Expiration Date(ED) (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr.5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year Reported Transaction(s) (Instr.4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Securities: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr.4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr.4)
Options to Purchase	\$29.98	03/29/2002		A	10,000 A	09/29/2002 / 03/29/2012	Class A Common Stock / 10,000		10,000	D	

Explanation of Responses:

By: /s/ William P. Benton Date: 01/30/2003

** Signature of Reporting Person

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).
 ** 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.
 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.