

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
Estimated average burden hours per response...	0.5

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* SMITH BRYAN SCOTT			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH]			5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) Vice Chairman and CSO		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 03/16/2006					
C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 5401 EAST INDEPENDENCE BLVD.								
(Street)			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> 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					

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 Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Class A Common Stock	03/16/2006 ⁽¹⁾		M		20,000	A	\$ 6	40,875	D	
Class A Common Stock	03/16/2006 ⁽¹⁾		S		20,000	D	\$ 27.7065	20,875	D	
Class A Common Stock	03/17/2006 ⁽¹⁾		M		20,000	A	\$ 6	40,875	D	
Class A Common Stock	03/17/2006 ⁽¹⁾		S		20,000	D	\$ 27.84	20,875	D	
Class A Common Stock	03/20/2006 ⁽¹⁾		M		20,000	A	\$ 6	40,875	D	
Class A Common Stock	03/20/2006 ⁽¹⁾		S		20,000	D	\$ 27.8837	20,875	D	

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

Persons who 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. SEC 1474 (9-02)

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 and Expiration Date (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 Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Options to Purchase	\$ 6	03/16/2006 ⁽¹⁾		M		20,000	⁽²⁾	10/09/2007	Class A Common Stock	20,000	\$ 0	59,750	D	
Options to Purchase	\$ 6	03/17/2006 ⁽¹⁾		M		20,000	⁽²⁾	10/09/2007	Class A Common Stock	20,000	\$ 0	39,750	D	
Options to Purchase	\$ 6	03/20/2006 ⁽¹⁾		M		20,000	⁽²⁾	10/09/2007	Class A Common Stock	20,000	\$ 0	19,750	D	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other

SMITH BRYAN SCOTT C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. 5401 EAST INDEPENDENCE BLVD. CHARLOTTE, NC 28212	X		Vice Chairman and CSO	
--	---	--	-----------------------	--

Signatures

/s/ B. Scott Smith		03/20/2006
<small>**Signature of Reporting Person</small>		<small>Date</small>

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
- (1) Options exercised and shares sold pursuant to 10b5-1 trading plan.
- (2) Options vested in three annual installments beginning on October 9, 1998 and became fully vested on October 9, 2000.

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.