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

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

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

pe Response	s)															
1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* SMITH O BRUTON				2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH]							5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) X Director X 10% Owner					
(Last) (First) (Middle) C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 5401 EAST INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD				3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 03/23/2006							X Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) Chairman and CEO					
OTTE, NC	(Street) 28212		4. If An	nendm	ent, l	Date	Origin	nal Fi	led(Month	/Day/Year)		_X_ Form fil	ed by One Repo	orting Person		ble Line)
)	(State)	(Zip)			Ta	ble I	- Non	-Der	ivative S	Securities	Acqu	ired, Dispe	osed of, or l	Beneficially	Owned	
(Instr. 3) Da		2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	Execution lany	on Date, if	Code (Instr. 8)		ction			of (D)	Beneficial Reported	ally Owned Following d Transaction(s)		Ownership of Form:	Beneficial	
			(Month/Day/Yea		(ear)		ode	V	Amoun	(A) or (D)	Price	Ì	c. 3 and 4)		or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common S	stock (1)	03/23/2006				1	A		15,000) A	\$ 0	20,400			D	
							1	conta the f	ained ir orm dis sposed o	n this for splays a c	m are curre eficial	e not requently valid	uired to res OMB con	spond unle	ess	
2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	Date	3A. Deemed Execution Da any	te, if 4.	ansact	ion 1	5. Numbor Of Deriv Secur Acqui (A) or Dispo of (D)	rative rities ired rosed) . 3, d 5)	6. Da and I (Mon	ate Exerc Expiration onth/Day/	cisable on Date Year) Expiration	7. T Amound Secon (Ins 4)	ount of derlying urities tr. 3 and		Derivative Securities Beneficiall Owned Following Reported	Owners Form of Derivat Security Direct (or Indirect)	Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
	DATTE, NC DOTTE, NC Common S Report on a s Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative	D BRUTON (First) NIC AUTOMOTIVE, IDEPENDENCE BOU (Street) OTTE, NC 28212 (State) ecurity Common Stock (1) Report on a separate line for Exercise Price of Derivative	d Address of Reporting Person D BRUTON (First) (Middle) NIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 5401 (IDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD (Street) OTTE, NC 28212 (State) (Zip) ecurity 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) Common Stock (1) 03/23/2006 Report on a separate line for each class of secundary or Exercise Price of Derivative (Month/Day/Year) 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) 3. A. Deemed Execution Date (Month/Day/Year) (Month/Day/Year)	2. Issue SONIo D BRUTON D BRUTON (First) (Middle) (Middle) (Middle) (Mic AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 5401 (Middle) (M	2. Issuer National Address of Reporting Person* 2. Issuer National Sonic Author So	2. Issuer Name a SONIC AUTO O BRUTON O BRUTON O BRUTON O (First) (Middle) (Middl	2. Issuer Name and Ti SONIC AUTOMO O (First) (Middle) OIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 5401 OIDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date of Execution Date (Month/Day/Year) OTTE, NC 28212 O (State) (Zip) Table I Execution Date (Month/Day/Year) Common Stock (1) 03/23/2006 Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Ti Code (Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Ti Code (Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Ti Code (Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Ti Code (Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Ti Code (Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Ti Code (Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Ti Code (Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Ti Code (Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Ti Code (Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Ti Code (Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Ti Code (Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Ti Code (Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Ti Code (Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Ti Code (Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Tille Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts, calls, warrant and Tille Instruction) OTTE, NC 28212 O Table II - Derivative Securities Ac (e.g., puts,	d Address of Reporting Person DBRUTON 2. Issuer Name and Ticker of SONIC AUTOMOTIVE SONIC AUTOMOTIVE (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (03/23/2006 Street) (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Origin Date (Month/Day/Year) (Strate) 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) (State) 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) (Month/Day/Year) 2. Transaction Date (Instr. 8) Code Common Stock (1) 3. Deemed Execution Date, if (Month/Day/Year) Code Common Stock (1) 3. Transaction Date (Instr. 8) Code Common Stock (1) 3. Deemed Execution Date, if (Month/Day/Year) Code Common Stock (1) 3. Transaction Date, if (Instr. 8) Code (Instr. 8) (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Code (Instr. 8) Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	d Address of Reporting Person* D BRUTON Common Stock (1) Composition of Exercise (Month/Day/Year) Conversion of Exercise (Month/Day/Year) Conversion of Exercise (Month/Day/Year) Conversion of Exercise (Month/Day/Year) Code (Month/Day	d Address of Reporting Person DRUTON 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading System SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAB SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAB SONIC AUTOMOTIVE] INC	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 103/23/2006 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 103/23/2006 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) 103/23/2006 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) 103/23/2006 Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (Instr. 8) 100	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) (Street) 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) (Month/Day/Year) 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) (Month/Day/Year) 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) (Month/Day/Year) 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) 2. Code V Amount (A) or Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficia (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) 2. Transaction Date (Instr. 8) 3. Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 4. Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficia (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) 2. Code (Instr. 8) 2. Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficia (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) 3. Transaction (A) or Derivative Securities) 4. Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficia (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) 3. Transaction (A) or Derivative Securities) 4. Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficia (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) 4. Date Expiration Title (Month/Day/Year) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Derivative Securities) 4. Date Expiration Title (Month/Day/Year) 5. Date Expiration Title (Month/Day/Year) 6. Date Expiration Date (Instr. 8) 8. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 8. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 9. Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) 9. Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) 9. Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH] X _ Direc	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH] 5. Relationship of Rep (Che SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH] 7. Director (Che SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH] 7. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 7. Date of Exercise (Month/Day/Year) 7. Date of Exercise (A) or Disposed of (Disposed of Conversion Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities (Price of Derivative Securities Date (Month/Day/Year) 8. Amount of Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities (Instr. 3) and 4) 7. Talle all Amount of Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities (Instr. 3) and 4) 7. Talle all Amount of Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities (Instr. 3) and 4) 7. Talle all Amount of Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities (Instr. 3) and 4) 7. Talle all Amount of Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities (Instr. 3) and 4) 7. Talle all Amount of Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities (Instr. 3) 7. Talle all Amount of Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities (Instr. 3) 7. Talle all Amount of Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities (Instr. 3) 7. Talle all Amount of Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities (Instr. 3) 7. Talle all Amount of Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities (Instr. 3) 7. Talle all Amount of Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities (Instr. 5) 7. Talle and Experization Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities) 7. Talle and Experization Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities) 7. Talle and Experization Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities) 7. Talle and Experization Date (E.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible Securities) 7. Talle and Experization Date (E.g., puts, calls,	Security Common Stock (II) O3/23/2006 Securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. Securities Acquired (Month/Day/Year) O3/23/2006 Securities	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH] SIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 5401 IDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD (Street) (Str

Reporting Owners

	Relationships					
Reporting Owner Name / Address	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
SMITH O BRUTON C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. 5401 EAST INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD CHARLOTTE, NC 28212	X	X	Chairman and CEO			

Signatures

/s/ O. Bruton Smith	03/27/2006
**Signature of Reporting Person	Date

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) Restricted stock units granted by the Compensation Committee of Sonic Automotive, Inc. pursuant to the Sonic Automotive, Inc. 2004 Stock Incentive Plan. These restricted stock units may only be settled in shares of Class A Common Stock and are subject to forfeiture based on the satisfaction of performance criteria for fiscal year 2006.

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.