

INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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

(Print or Type Responses)

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* SMITH DAVID BRUTON (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 6415 IDLEWILD ROAD, SUITE 109 (Street) CHARLOTTE, NC 28212 (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 10/16/2008 | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH] | | |
| | | 4. 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) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Executive Vice President</div> | | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 10/24/2008 |
| | | 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 | | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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.

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|--|---|---|
| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | |
| Options to Purchase ⁽¹⁾ | ⁽²⁾ | 05/02/2011 | Class A Common Stock | 0 | \$ 10.35 | D | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| SMITH DAVID BRUTON C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. 6415 IDLEWILD ROAD, SUITE 109 CHARLOTTE, NC 28212 | X | | Executive Vice President | |

Signatures

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| /s/ David B. Smith | 02/04/2011 |
| <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 5(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).

The reporting person is filing this Form 3/A to remove this option grant that was reported on a Form 3/A filed January 14, 2011 and to return his list of holdings to those originally reported on his Form 3 on October 16, 2008. At the time of filing that Form 3/A, the reporting person believed the option grant was erroneously omitted from his

(1) original Form 3 filing. However, subsequent to the filing of the Form 3/A, it was discovered that this option grant had been exercised prior to the reporting person's original Form 3 filing and was not beneficially owned by the reporting person on the date he became a director and Section 16 officer of Sonic Automotive, Inc. Therefore, it was properly not reported on his original Form 3 filing.

(2) Options to purchase vested in three equal annual installments beginning on May 2, 2002.

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.