

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL	
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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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* SMITH DAVID BRUTON			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) Executive Vice President		
(Last) (First) (Middle) C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 4401 COLWICK ROAD			3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/28/2012					
(Street) CHARLOTTE, NC 28211			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		
(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			

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

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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	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Class B Common Stock	(1)	12/28/2012		G	V	0	(2)	(1)	(1)	Class A Common Stock	(2)	(2)	0	(2)	I	by Trust
Class B Common Stock	(1)	12/28/2012		J		0	(3)	(1)	(1)	Class A Common Stock	(3)	(3)	0	(3)	I	by LLC
Class B Common Stock	(1)	12/28/2012		J		0	(4)	(1)	(1)	Class A Common Stock	(4)	(4)	0	(4)	I	by Trust
Class B Common Stock	(1)	12/31/2012		G	V	0	(5)	(1)	(1)	Class A Common Stock	(5)	(5)	0	(5)	I	by SFC
Class B Common Stock	(1)	01/02/2013		G	V	0	(5)	(1)	(1)	Class A Common Stock	(5)	(5)	0	(5)	I	by SFC

Reporting Owners

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

SMITH DAVID BRUTON C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. 4401 COLWICK ROAD CHARLOTTE, NC 28211	X	Executive Vice President
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Signatures

/s/ Stephen K. Coss, as Attorney-in-Fact <small>**Signature of Reporting Person</small>	01/02/2013 <small>Date</small>
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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) Shares of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class B Common Stock are convertible into shares of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class A Common Stock on a 1-for-1 basis at the option of the reporting person and there is no expiration date.
The reporting person is a co-trustee and beneficiary of O. Bruton Smith Family Irrevocable Trust dated December 11, 2012 (the "Trust"), which received a 3.1685% interest in OBS Holdings, LLC, a North Carolina limited liability company ("Holdings") from Mr. O. Bruton Smith by gift. Holdings is an indirect holder of 8,881,250 shares of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class B Common Stock. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of shares held by the Trust, SFC and interests in Holdings, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
- (2) Reflects purchase of an 11.8819% interest in Holdings by OBS Family, LLC, a North Carolina limited liability company ("Family"), of which the reporting person and his three siblings each own a 25% equity interest. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of shares held by Family, except to the extent of his pecuniary interest therein.
- (3) Reflects purchase of an 11.8315% interest in Holdings by the Trust.
- (4) The reporting person received a gift of less than 1.0% of the outstanding stock of Sonic Financial Corporation ("SFC") from Mr. O. Bruton Smith. SFC holds directly 8,881,250 shares of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class B Common Stock.

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.

LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints each of Stephen K. Coss, Esq. and Christian G. Saffer, or either of them signing singly, and with full power of s

- (1) prepare, execute in the undersigned's name and on the undersigned's behalf, and submit to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC") a Form ID, including amendments thereto, and
- (2) execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, beneficial ownership reports on Schedules 13D and/or 13G in accordance with Section 13 of the Exchange Act and the rules thereunder;
- (3) execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, reports on Forms 3, 4, and 5 in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act and the rules thereunder;
- (4) do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned which may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such schedules or forms, complete and execute any amendmen
- (5) take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing which, in the opinion of such attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the best interest of, or legally require

The undersigned hereby grants to each such attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary, or proper to be done in

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect from December 13, 2012 through January 5, 2013, and shall automatically be revoked effective January 5, 2013.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 13th day of December, 2012.

/s/ David B. Smith
Signature

David B. Smith
Print Name

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