

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC  
 Form 4  
 October 15, 2002  
 SEC Form 4

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|---|---|---|--|
| <p><b>FORM 4</b></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><b>UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION</b><br/>                 Washington, D.C. 20549</p> <p><b>STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP</b></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(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940</p> | <p>OMB APPROVAL</p> <hr/> <p>OMB Number: 3235-0287<br/>                 Expires: January 31, 2005<br/>                 Estimated average burden hours per response. . . . . 0.5</p> |  |
| <p>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*<br/> <b>Smith, B. Scott</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>(Last) (First) (Middle)</p> <p><b>c/o Sonic Automotive, Inc.</b><br/> <b>5401 East Independence Blvd.</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>(Street)</p> <p><b>Charlotte, NC 28212</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>(City) (State) (Zip)</p> | <p>2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol</p> <p><b>Sonic Automotive, Inc.</b><br/> <b>sah</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)</p>   | <p>4. Statement for Month/Day/Year</p> <p><b>10/10/2002</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)</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<br/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)</p> <p>Description <b><u>President and Chief Operating Officer</u></b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person</p> |

**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/D      | Price      |   |  |   |
| <b>Class A Common Stock</b>     | <b>10/10/2002</b>                    |  | <b>C(1)</b>                    |   | <b>20,152</b>  | <b>D</b> | <b>(1)</b> | <b>21,348</b>   | <b>D</b>   |   |

**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) | 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 Following Reported |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|

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|                                     |                | Day/<br>Year)     |             |   | (Instr. 3, 4<br>and 5) |   | DE            | ED         | Title                               | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |            | Transaction(s)<br>(Instr.4) |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|---|------------------------|---|---------------|------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------|-----------------------------|
|                                     |                |                   | Code        | V | A                      | D |               |            |                                     |  |            |                             |
| <b>Class B<br/>Common<br/>Stock</b> | <b>1-for-1</b> | <b>10/10/2002</b> | <b>C(2)</b> |   | <b>20,152</b>          |   | <b>immed.</b> | <b>N/A</b> | <b>Class A<br/>Common<br/>Stock</b> | <b>20,152</b>                          | <b>(2)</b> | <b>976,402</b>              |

**Explanation of Responses:**

(1) On October 10, 2002, Mr. Smith exchanged 20,152 shares of Sonic's Class A Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Smith for 20,152 shares of Sonic's Class B Common Stock beneficially owned by Egan Group, LLC (a member of the "Smith Group" as defined in Sonic's Charter). This transaction is being reported on Form 4 as a conversion exempt from Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 pursuant to Rule 16b-6(b) promulgated thereunder and related SEC guidance. On October 10, 2002, the closing price of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class A Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$15.09.

(2) On October 10, 2002, Mr. Smith exchanged 20,152 shares of Sonic's Class A Common Stock beneficially owned by Mr. Smith for 20,152 shares of Sonic's Class B Common Stock beneficially owned by Egan Group, LLC (a member of the "Smith Group" as defined in Sonic's Charter). This transaction is being reported on Form 4 as a conversion exempt from Section 16(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 pursuant to Rule 16b-6(b) promulgated thereunder and related SEC guidance. On October 10, 2002, the closing price of Sonic Automotive, Inc.'s Class A Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$15.09.

**By:**

/s/ B. Scott Smith

10/14/2002

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

SEC 1474 (8-02)

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.