

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC
Form SC 13G/A
February 16, 2016

SECURITIES
AND
EXCHANGE
COMMISSION
Washington,
D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE
13G/A

Under the
Securities
Exchange Act of
1934
(Amendment
No. 3)*

Sonic
Automotive,
Inc.
(Name of
Issuer)

Class A
Common Stock,
par value \$0.01
per share
(Title of Class
of Securities)

83545G102
(CUSIP
Number)

December 31,
2015
(Date of Event
Which Requires
Filing of This
Statement)

Check the
appropriate box

to designate the
rule pursuant to
which this
Schedule is
filed:

- .. Rule 13d-1(b)
- Q Rule 13d-1(c)
- .. Rule 13d-1(d)

(Page 1 of 9
Pages)

*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

| | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | NAME OF REPORTING PERSON |
| | Eminence Capital, LP |
| 2 | CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER (b) Q OF A GROUP |
| 3 | SEC USE ONLY CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION |
| | Delaware |
| 5 | SOLE VOTING POWER |
| | 0 |
| 6 | SHARED VOTING POWER |
| 7 | 3,188,831 ¹ SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| 8 | 0 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| 9 | 3,188,831 ¹ AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON |
| | 3,188,831 ¹ |

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 10 | CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN .. ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES PERCENT OF CLASS |
| 11 | REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (9) |
| 12 | 8.4% ² TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON |
| | IA |

¹ As of February 12, 2016, this amount was zero.

² As of February 12, 2016, this percentage was 0%.

| | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | NAME OF REPORTING PERSON |
| | Eminence GP, LLC |
| 2 | CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER (b) Q OF A GROUP |
| 3 | SEC USE ONLY CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION |
| | Delaware |
| 5 | SOLE VOTING POWER |
| | 0 |
| 6 | SHARED VOTING POWER |
| 7 | 2,918,920 ¹ SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| 8 | 0 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| 9 | 2,918,920 ¹ AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON |
| | 2,918,920 ¹ |

10 CHECK BOX
IF THE
AGGREGATE
AMOUNT IN ..
ROW (9)
EXCLUDES
CERTAIN
SHARES
PERCENT OF
CLASS
11 REPRESENTED BY
AMOUNT IN ROW
(9)

7.7%²
TYPE OF
REPORTING
12 PERSON

OO

¹ As of February 12, 2016, this amount was zero.

² As of February 12, 2016, this percentage was 0%.

| | |
|----------|---|
| 1 | NAME OF REPORTING PERSON |
| | Ricky C. Sandler |
| 2 | CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER (b) Q OF A GROUP |
| 3 | SEC USE ONLY CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION |
| | United States |
| 5 | SOLE VOTING POWER |
| 6 | 2,825 ¹ SHARED VOTING POWER |
| 7 | 3,188,831 ¹ SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| 8 | 2,825 ¹ SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER |
| 9 | 3,188,831 ¹ AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON |
| | 3,191,656 ¹ |

10 CHECK BOX
IF THE
AGGREGATE
AMOUNT IN ..
ROW (9)
EXCLUDES
CERTAIN
SHARES
PERCENT OF
CLASS
11 REPRESENTED BY
AMOUNT IN ROW
(9)

8.4%²
TYPE OF
REPORTING
12 PERSON
IN

¹ As of February 12, 2016, this amount was zero.

² As of February 12, 2016, this percentage was 0%.

Item 1(a). Name of Issuer

The name of the issuer is Sonic Automotive, Inc. (the "Company").

Item 1(b). Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices

The Company's principal executive offices are located at 4401 Colwick Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28211.

Item 2. Name of Person Filing:

This statement is filed on behalf of each of the following persons (collectively, the "Reporting Persons"):

- (i) Eminence Capital, LP, a Delaware limited partnership ("Eminence Capital");
- (ii) Eminence GP, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Eminence GP"); and
- (iii) Ricky C. Sandler, a U.S. Citizen ("Mr. Sandler").

This statement relates to shares of Class A Common Stock (as defined in Item 2(d) below) held for the accounts of:

(i) Eminence Partners, L.P., a New York limited partnership ("Eminence I"); Eminence Partners II, L.P., a New York limited partnership ("Eminence II"); Eminence Partners Leveraged, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("Eminence Leveraged"); Eminence Eaglewood Master, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ("Eminence Eaglewood"); Eminence Partners Long, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership (together with Eminence I, Eminence II, Eminence Leveraged and Eminence Eaglewood, the "Partnerships"); as well as Eminence Fund Master, Ltd. ("Eminence Offshore Master Fund"); Eminence Fund Leveraged Master, Ltd. (together with Eminence Offshore Master Fund, the "Master Funds"), each a Cayman Islands company, and Eminence Fund Long, Ltd. ("Eminence Offshore Long"), a Cayman Islands company. The Partnerships, Master Funds and Eminence Offshore Long are collectively referred to as the "Eminence Funds";

(ii) A separately managed account (the "SMA"); and

(iii) Family accounts and other related accounts over which Mr. Sandler has investment discretion (the "Family Accounts").

Eminence Capital serves as the management company to the Eminence Funds with respect to the shares of Class A Common Stock directly owned by the Eminence Funds and the investment adviser to the SMA with respect to the Class A Common Stock directly owned by the SMA. Eminence Capital may be deemed to have voting and dispositive power over the shares held for the accounts of the Eminence Funds and the SMA.

Eminence GP serves as general partner or manager with respect to the shares of Class A Common Stock directly owned by the Partnerships and Master Funds and may be deemed to have voting and dispositive power over the shares held for the accounts of the Partnerships and Master Funds.

Mr. Sandler is the Chief Executive Officer of Eminence Capital and the Managing Member of Eminence GP and may be deemed to have voting and dispositive power with respect to the shares of Class A Common Stock directly owned by the Eminence Funds, the SMA and the Family Accounts, as applicable.

The filing of this statement should not be construed as an admission that any of the Reporting Persons is, for the purposes of Section 13G of the Act, the beneficial owner of the shares of Class A Common Stock reported herein.

Item 2(b). Address of Principal Business Office or, if None, Residence:

The address of the principal business and principal office of Eminence GP and Eminence Capital is 65 East 55th Street, 25th Floor, New York, NY 10022. The business address of Mr. Sandler is 65 East 55th Street, 25th Floor, New York, NY 10022.

Item 2(c). Citizenship

- (i) Eminence Capital, a Delaware limited partnership;
- (ii) Eminence GP, a Delaware limited liability company; and
- (iii) Mr. Sandler is a United States citizen.

Item 2(d). Title of Class of Securities

Class A Common Stock, \$0.01 par value (the "Class A Common Stock").

Item 2(e). CUSIP Number

83545G102

Item 3. a: **If this statement is filed pursuant to Rules 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is**

- (a) Broker or dealer registered under Section 15 of the Act;
- (b) Bank as defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act;
- (c) Insurance company as defined in Section 3(a)(19) of the Act;

- (d) "Investment company registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940;
- (e) "An investment adviser in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E);
- (f) "An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(F);
- (g) " A parent holding company or control person in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(G);
- (h) " A savings association as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act;
- (i) .. A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under Section 3(c)(14) of the Investment Company Act;
- (j) " A non-U.S. institution in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J);
- (k) " Group, in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(K).

If filing as a non-U.S. institution in accordance with Rule 13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(J), please specify the type of institution:

Item 4. Ownership

A. Eminence Capital, LP

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 3,188,831 (0 shares as of February 12, 2016)
Percent of class: 8.4% (0% as of February 12, 2016). The percentages used herein and in the rest of Item 4 are calculated based upon the 37,781,160 shares of Class A Common Stock outstanding as of October 26, 2015, as set forth in the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2015 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 30, 2015.
- (b) 2015, as set forth in the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2015, as set forth in the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2015, as set forth in the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2015, as set forth in the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended September 30, 2015.
- (c) (i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote: 0
(ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote: 3,188,831 (0 shares as of February 12, 2016)
(iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: 0
(iv) Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 3,188,831 (0 shares as of February 12, 2016)

B. Eminence GP, LLC

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 2,918,920 (0 shares as of February 12, 2016)
- (b) Percent of class: 7.7% (0% as of February 12, 2016)
- (c) (i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote: 0
(ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote: 2,918,920 (0 shares as of February 12, 2016)
(iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: 0
(iv) Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 2,918,920 (0 shares as of February 12, 2016)

C. Ricky C. Sandler

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 3,191,656 (0 shares as of February 12, 2016)
- (b) Percent of class: 8.4% (0% as of February 12, 2016)
- (c) (i) Sole power to vote or direct the vote: 2,825 (0 shares as of February 12, 2016)
(ii) Shared power to vote or direct the vote: 3,188,831 (0 shares as of February 12, 2016)
(iii) Sole power to dispose or direct the disposition: 2,825 (0 shares as of February 12, 2016)
(iv) Shared power to dispose or direct the disposition: 3,188,831 (0 shares as of February 12, 2016)

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class

This statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting persons have ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than 5 percent of the class of securities.

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person

Not Applicable.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on by the Parent Holding Company.

Not Applicable.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not Applicable.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not Applicable.

Item 10. Certification

Each of the Reporting Persons hereby makes the following certification:

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having

that purpose or effect.

SIGNATURES

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of his or its knowledge and belief, each of the undersigned certifies that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

DATE: February 16, 2016

/s/ Ricky C. Sandler

Ricky C. Sandler, individually; as

Managing Member of Eminence Capital, GP, LLC, the General Partner of Eminence Capital, LP;

and as Managing Member of Eminence GP, LLC