

SMITH BRYAN SCOTT  
Form 4  
March 20, 2006

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
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, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
SMITH BRYAN SCOTT

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 5401 EAST INDEPENDENCE BLVD.

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
03/16/2006

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
Vice Chairman and CSO

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

CHARLOTTE, NC 28212

(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)	
				(A) or (D)	Price			
				Code	V	Amount		
Class A Common Stock	03/16/2006 <sup>(1)</sup>		M	20,000	A	\$ 6	40,875	D
Class A Common Stock	03/16/2006 <sup>(1)</sup>		S	20,000	D	\$ 27.7065	20,875	D
Class A Common Stock	03/17/2006 <sup>(1)</sup>		M	20,000	A	\$ 6	40,875	D
Class A Common Stock	03/17/2006 <sup>(1)</sup>		S	20,000	D	\$ 27.84	20,875	D

Common  
Stock

Class A  
Common Stock 03/20/2006<sup>(1)</sup> M 20,000 A \$ 6 40,875 D

Class A  
Common Stock 03/20/2006<sup>(1)</sup> S 20,000 D \$ 27.8837 20,875 D

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

**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.**

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. Amount or Number of Shares
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title	
Options to Purchase	\$ 6	03/16/2006 <sup>(1)</sup>		M	20,000	<sup>(2)</sup> 10/09/2007	Class A Common Stock	20,000
Options to Purchase	\$ 6	03/17/2006 <sup>(1)</sup>		M	20,000	<sup>(2)</sup> 10/09/2007	Class A Common Stock	20,000
Options to Purchase	\$ 6	03/20/2006 <sup>(1)</sup>		M	20,000	<sup>(2)</sup> 10/09/2007	Class A Common Stock	20,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SMITH BRYAN SCOTT C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. 5401 EAST INDEPENDENCE BLVD.	X		Vice Chairman and CSO	

CHARLOTTE, NC 28212

## Signatures

/s/ B. Scott  
Smith

03/20/2006

\_\_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) Options exercised and shares sold pursuant to 10b5-1 trading plan.

(2) Options vested in three annual installments beginning on October 9, 1998 and became fully vested on October 9, 2000.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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