

SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC
Form 4
April 10, 2008

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, 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 O BRUTON

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)

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

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

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

04/09/2008

Chairman and CEO

(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 | 04/09/2008 ⁽¹⁾ | | M | 7,714 | A | \$ 9.19 | 154,864 | D |
| Class A Common Stock | 04/09/2008 ⁽¹⁾ | | S | 5,400 | D | \$ 21.1076 ⁽²⁾ | 149,464 | D |
| Class A Common Stock | 04/10/2008 ⁽¹⁾ | | M | 12,286 | A | \$ 9.19 | 161,750 | D |
| Class A Common Stock | 04/10/2008 ⁽¹⁾ | | S | 8,600 | D | \$ | 153,150 | D |

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Common Stock 21,1018
(3)

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

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(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) | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Options to Purchase | \$ 9.19 | 04/09/2008 ⁽¹⁾ | | M | 7,714 | 04/06/1999 10/06/2008 | Class A Common Stock | 7,714 | |
| Options to Purchase | \$ 9.19 | 04/10/2008 ⁽¹⁾ | | M | 12,286 | 04/06/1999 10/06/2008 | Class A Common Stock | 12,286 | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| SMITH O BRUTON C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. 5401 EAST INDEPENDENCE BOULEVARD CHARLOTTE, NC 28212 | X | X | Chairman and CEO | |

Signatures

/s/ O. Bruton Smith 04/10/2008

**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 previously announced 10b5-1 trading plan.

(2) Shares were sold at prices ranging from \$21.00 to \$21.32.

(3) Shares were sold at prices ranging from \$21.00 to \$21.20.

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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