

SMITH BRYAN SCOTT  
Form 4  
October 04, 2010

**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)  
10/01/2010

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

(Street)  
CHARLOTTE, NC 28212

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

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |                                   |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Code  | V   | Amount   |                                   |
| Class A Common Stock            | 10/01/2010                           |  | M <sup>(1)</sup>               | 25,000  | A   | \$ 7.94  | 135,854 D                         |
| Class A Common Stock            | 10/01/2010                           |  | S <sup>(1)</sup>               | 25,000  | D   | \$ 9.729 <sup>(2)</sup>                                  | 110,854 D                         |
| Class A Common Stock            | 10/04/2010                           |  | M <sup>(1)</sup>               | 25,000  | A   | \$ 7.94  | 135,854 D                         |
| Class A Common Stock            | 10/04/2010                           |  | S <sup>(1)</sup>               | 25,000  | D   | \$   | 110,854 D                         |

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|                      |                      |   |  |
|----------------------|----------------------|---|--|
| Common Stock         | 9.6501<br><u>(3)</u> |   |  |
| Class A Common Stock | 69,686 <u>(4)</u>    | I | As a member of SMDA Development 1, LLC |

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) | Amount or Number of Shares |  |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|--|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title                      |  |
| Options to purchase                        | \$ 7.94  | 10/01/2010                           |  | M <sup>(1)</sup>               | 25,000  | 04/05/2001 10/05/2010                                    | Class A Common Stock  | 25,000                     |  |
| Options to purchase                        | \$ 7.94  | 10/04/2010                           |  | M <sup>(1)</sup>               | 25,000  | 04/05/2001 10/05/2010                                    | Class A Common Stock  | 25,000                     |  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |                   |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer           | Other |
| SMITH BRYAN SCOTT<br>C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC.<br>5401 EAST INDEPENDENCE BLVD.<br>CHARLOTTE, NC 28212 | X             |           | President and CSO |       |

## Signatures

/s/ B. Scott Smith  
10/04/2010  
Date

Signature of  
Reporting Person

## 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.

This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$9.60 per share to \$9.92 per share. The price reported reflects the weighted average sales price. The reporting person hereby undertakes to provide upon request to the SEC staff, the issuer or a security holder of the issuer full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the range set forth in this footnote.

(2) This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$9.43 per share to \$9.91 per share. The price reported reflects the weighted average sales price. The reporting person hereby undertakes to provide upon request to the SEC staff, the issuer or a security holder of the issuer full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the range set forth in this footnote.

(3) Mr. Smith disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares held by SMDA Development 1, LLC except to the extent of his pecuniary interest, if any, therein.

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.