

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).

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

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

---

<sup>1</sup> As of February 12, 2016, this amount was zero.

<sup>2</sup> As of February 12, 2016, this percentage was 0%.

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

**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%<sup>2</sup>  
TYPE OF  
REPORTING  
**12** PERSON

OO

---

<sup>1</sup> As of February 12, 2016, this amount was zero.

<sup>2</sup> As of February 12, 2016, this percentage was 0%.

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

**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%<sup>2</sup>  
**12** TYPE OF  
REPORTING  
PERSON

IN

---

<sup>1</sup> As of February 12, 2016, this amount was zero.

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

- (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;



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