

SMITH BRYAN SCOTT  
Form 4  
August 30, 2012

**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 BRYAN SCOTT

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 4401 COLWICK ROAD

(Street)

CHARLOTTE, NC 28211

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
08/28/2012

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

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

**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)
			Code	V	Amount (D) or Price (A)		
Class A Common Stock	08/28/2012		M <sup>(4)</sup>		9,505 A \$ 16.2	207,711	D
Class A Common Stock	08/28/2012		S <sup>(4)</sup>		9,505 D \$ 18.0079	198,206	D
Class A Common Stock	08/29/2012		M <sup>(4)</sup>		3,642 A \$ 16.2	201,848	D
Class A Common	08/29/2012		S <sup>(4)</sup>		3,642 D \$ 18.0003	198,206	D

Stock	<u>(2)</u>		
Class A Common Stock		69,686 <u>(3)</u>	I
			As a member of SMDA Development I, 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.**

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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 (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
Options to purchase	\$ 16.2	08/28/2012		M <sup>(4)</sup>	9,505	10/23/2003 10/23/2012	Class A Common Stock	9,505
Options to Purchase	\$ 16.2	08/29/2012		M <sup>(4)</sup>	3,642	10/23/2003 10/23/2012	Class A Common Stock	3,642

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SMITH BRYAN SCOTT C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. 4401 COLWICK ROAD CHARLOTTE, NC 28211	X		President and CSO	

## Signatures

/s/ B. Scott  
Smith

08/30/2012

\_\_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) This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$18.00 per share to \$18.05 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 \$18.00 per share to \$18.01 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 I, LLC except to the extent of his pecuniary interest, if any, therein.
  - (4) Options exercised and shares sold pursuant to 10b5-1 trading plan.

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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