SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC
Form 5
February 12, 2001

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                                                /        OMB APPROVAL         /
                                                /-----------------------------/
                                                / OMB Number:        3235-0362 /
                                                / Expires:  December 31, 2001  /
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                                                / hours per response...... 1.0 /
                                                /-----------------------------/

+--------+                                   UNITED STATES
| FORM 5 |                          SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
+--------+                                 Washington, D.C. 20549

[_] Check box if
    no longer subject     ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP
    to Section 16.
    Form 4 or Form 5       Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities
    obligations may           Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the
    continue. See            Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or
    Instruction 1(b).      Section 30(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

[_] Form 3 Holdings Reported

[_] Form 4 Transactions Reported
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1.  Name and Address of Reporting Person*

    Smith,                            O.                            Bruton
    ------------------------------------------------------------------------
        (Last)                      (First)                       (Middle)

    c/o Sonic Automotive, Inc. 5401 E. Independence Blvd.
    ------------------------------------------------------------------------
                                  (Street)

    Charlotte,                     NC                                28212
    ------------------------------------------------------------------------
        (City)                     (State)                           (Zip)


2.  Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Sonic Automotive, Inc. (SAH)
                                            ------------------------------------

3.  I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity
    (Voluntary)
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4.  Statement for Month/Year 12/00
                              ---------------------------------------------------

5.  If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
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6.  Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)

    [X] Director    [X] Officer             [X] 10% Owner    [ ] Other
                        (give title below)                       (specify below)
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Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

7. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (check applicable line)

_X_ 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)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securitie Beneficia Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Ye (Instr. 3
			Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see instruction 4(b)(v).

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	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)

Security

Options to purchase	$7.94	10/5/00	A

6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year (Instr. 4)
Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		
4/5/01	10/5/10	Class A Common Stock	100,000		550,000

Explanation of Responses:

/s/ O. Bruton Smith	February 12, 2001
**Signature of Reporting Person	Date

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

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