SMITH DAVID BRUTON

Form 4

February 12, 2009

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

OMB APPROVAL

3235-0287

Expires:

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Check this box

Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading SMITH DAVID BRUTON Issuer Symbol SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH] (Check all applicable) (First) (Middle) (Last) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) _X__ Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, 02/10/2009 below) INC., 6415 IDLEWILD ROAD, **Executive Vice President SUITE 109** (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

CHARLOTTE, NC 28212

(State)

(Zip)

(City)

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 onAcquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
		Code V	(A) or Amount (D) Pr	Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)		
Class A Common Stock	02/10/2009	D	8,112 D \$	0 8,807	D	

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

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

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1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	5.	6. Date Exerc	cisable and	7. Title a	and	8. Price of	9. Nu
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	Transactio	onNumber	Expiration D	ate	Amount	of	Derivative	Deriv
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/	Year)	Underlyi	ing	Security	Secui
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Derivative	e		Securitie	es	(Instr. 5)	Bene
	Derivative				Securities			(Instr. 3	and 4)		Own
	Security				Acquired						Follo
	•				(A) or						Repo
					Disposed						Trans
					of (D)						(Instr
					(Instr. 3,						
					4, and 5)						
								Α.			
									mount		
						Date	Expiration	or			
						Exercisable	Date		umber		
								of			
				Code V	(A) (D)			Sł	hares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
SMITH DAVID BRUTON C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. 6415 IDLEWILD ROAD, SUITE 109 CHARLOTTE, NC 28212	X		Executive Vice President			

Signatures

/s/ David Bruton
Smith

**Signature of Reporting Person

O2/12/2009

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) Represents the forfeiture of restricted stock granted pursuant to the Sonic Automotive, Inc. 2004 Stock Incentive Plan on February 28, 2008 due to not achieving the required performance criterium for fiscal 2008.

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.

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