

SMITH DAVID BRUTON

Form 4

August 13, 2012

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
Number: 3235-0287
Expires: January 31,
2005
Estimated average
burden hours per
response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
SMITH DAVID BRUTON

(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)

08/09/2012

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)

Executive Vice President

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 or Disposed of (A) or (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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Class A Common Stock | 08/09/2012 | | M | 300 A | \$ 1.81 107,057 | D | |
| Class A Common Stock | 08/09/2012 | | S | 300 D | \$ 18 106,757 | D | |
| Class A Common Stock | | | | | 69,686 ⁽¹⁾ | I | As a member of SMDA Development I, LLC |

Edgar Filing: SMITH DAVID BRUTON - Form 4

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) | | 8. Pr Deriv Secur (Instr |
|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | |
| Options to Purchase | \$ 1.81 | 08/09/2012 | | M | 300 | <u>(2)</u> | 03/30/2019 | Class A Common Stock | 300 | \$ |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| SMITH DAVID BRUTON C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC. 4401 COLWICK ROAD CHARLOTTE, NC 28211 | | X | Executive Vice President | |

Signatures

/s/ David Bruton
Smith 08/13/2012

**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) 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.

(2) Options vested in three equal installments beginning on March 30, 2010.

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

Edgar Filing: SMITH DAVID BRUTON - Form 4

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.