#### SMITH DAVID BRUTON Form 3/A January 14, 2011 FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549 OMB

### INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 <u>*</u> SMITH DAVID BRUTON		<ol> <li>Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)</li> </ol>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH]				
(Last) (First) (Middle) C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 6415 IDLEWILD			10/16/2008	Person(s) to	nip of Reporting Issuer k all applicable)	5. If Amendment, Date Orig Filed(Month/Day/Year) 10/24/2008	çinal
ROAD, SU	(Street)	28212		, U		6. Individual or Joint/Group w) filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporti Person	) ing
(City)	(State)	(Zip)				Form filed by More than O Reporting Person	ne
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Table I -	Non-Deriva	tive Securiti	es Beneficially Owned	
1.Title of Secu (Instr. 4)	ırity		2. Amount of Beneficially (Instr. 4)		3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)	
Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. SEC 1473 (7-02)							
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#### Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of	5. Ownership Form of Derivative	(Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of	Derivative Security	Security: Direct (D)	

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104 Expires: January 31, 2005 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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				Shares		or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	
Options to Purchase	(1)	05/02/2011	Class A Common Stock	10,000	\$ 10.35	D	Â

# **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	ÂX	Â	Executive Vice President	Â		
<b>O</b> !						

### Signatures

/s/ David B. Smith	01/14/2011
<u>**</u> Signature of Reporting Person	Date

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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) Options to purchase vested in three equal annual installments beginning on May 2, 2002.

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### **Remarks:**

Due to an administrative error, the reporting person's original Form 3 filing did not include this gu

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.