

SMITH DAVID BRUTON  
Form 3/A  
January 14, 2011

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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**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)

|   |   |  |   |   |   |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| <p>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *</p> <p>SMITH DAVID BRUTON</p> <p>(Last) (First) (Middle)</p> <p>C/O SONIC AUTOMOTIVE, INC., 6415 IDLEWILD ROAD, SUITE 109</p> <p>(Street)</p> <p>CHARLOTTE, NC 28212</p> <p>(City) (State) (Zip)</p> | <p>2. Date of Event Requiring Statement</p> <p>(Month/Day/Year)</p> <p>10/16/2008</p> | <p>3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol</p> <p>SONIC AUTOMOTIVE INC [SAH]</p> | <p>4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer</p> <p>(Check all applicable)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner<br/><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other<br/>(give title below) (specify below)<br/>Executive Vice President</p> | <p>5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)</p> <p>10/24/2008</p> | <p>6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br/><input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person</p> |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

|  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p>1. Title of Security<br/>(Instr. 4)</p> | <p>2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned<br/>(Instr. 4)</p> | <p>3. Ownership Form:<br/>Direct (D)<br/>or Indirect (I)<br/>(Instr. 5)</p> | <p>4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership<br/>(Instr. 5)</p> |
|--|--|---|--|

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

**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.**

**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

|   |  |  |   |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <p>1. Title of Derivative Security<br/>(Instr. 4)</p> | <p>2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date<br/>(Month/Day/Year)</p> <p>Date Exercisable      Expiration Date</p> | <p>3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security<br/>(Instr. 4)</p> <p>Title      Amount or Number of</p> | <p>4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security</p> | <p>5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security:<br/>Direct (D)</p> | <p>6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership<br/>(Instr. 5)</p> |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|

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

## Reporting Owners

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

## Signatures

/s/ David B. Smith 01/14/2011

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 gr

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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