

SONIC CORP  
Form 4  
January 17, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**HUDSON J CLIFFORD**

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
300 JOHNNY BENCH DRIVE  
(Street)

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73104

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**SONIC CORP [SONC]**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
01/14/2012

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)

Chief Executive Officer

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 (A) or Disposed of (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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V Amount (A) or (D) Price			
Common Stock	01/14/2012		M	11,880 <sup>(1)</sup> A \$ 0	542,582	I	By self as trustee of trust
Common Stock	01/14/2012		F	4,294 <sup>(2)</sup> D \$ 6.71	538,288	I	By self as trustee of trust
Common Stock					120,518 <sup>(3)</sup>	I	By 401(k)
Common Stock					343,056	I	By spouse as trustee of trust
Common Stock					45,220 <sup>(4)</sup>	D	

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Common Stock	82,000 <sup>(5)</sup>	I	Family-owned LLC
Common Stock	9,855	I	Trustee of son's trust

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)**

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. Amount or Number of Shares
Restricted Stock Units	\$ 0	01/14/2012		M	11,880	<u>(1)</u> <u>(1)</u>	Common Stock <sup>(1)</sup>	11,880

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
HUDSON J CLIFFORD 300 JOHNNY BENCH DRIVE OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73104	X		Chief Executive Officer	

## Signatures

Carolyn C. Cummins for J. Clifford Hudson  
Date: 01/17/2012

\*\*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) Represents shares that vested in accordance with the terms of Restricted Stock Units granted January 14, 2010, providing for vesting of Restricted Stock Units in equal annual installments on each of the first three anniversaries following the date of grant.

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- (2) Shares were withheld by the issuer to cover the minimum tax withholding requirements associated with the vesting of the 11,880 Restricted Stock Units.
- (3) Shares held in the Sonic Corp. 401(k) as of January 17, 2012.
- (4) The total number of shares beneficially owned directly includes 3,431 shares held in the 1991 Sonic Corp. Stock Purchase Plan as of January 17, 2012.
- (5) The reporting person owns 21% of the family limited liability company and disclaims beneficial ownership of the issuer's shares held by the family limited liability company except to the extent of his pecuniary interest.

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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