

NICHOLS J LARRY  
Form 4  
January 19, 2010

**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 \*  
NICHOLS J LARRY

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
01/14/2010

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73104  
  
(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount (A) or (D) Price		
Common Stock	01/15/2010		M		1,378 (1)	A	\$ 0 6,378 D

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

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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**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 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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
Non-qualified stock option (right to buy)	\$ 8.74	01/14/2010		A	2,388	<u>(2)</u> 01/14/2017	Common Stock 2,388
Restricted Stock Units	\$ 0	01/14/2010		A	796	<u>(3)</u> <u>(3)</u>	Common Stock 796
Restricted Stock Units	\$ 0	01/15/2010		M	1,378 <u>(1)</u>	<u>(1)</u> <u>(1)</u>	Common Stock 1,378

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
NICHOLS J LARRY 300 JOHNNY BENCH DRIVE OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73104			X	

## Signatures

Carolyn C. Cummins for J. Larry Nichols  
Date: 01/19/2010

\*\*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 15, 2009, providing for vesting of Restricted Stock Units in equal annual installments on each of the first three anniversaries following the date of grant.
- (2) One-third of the total number of options granted on January 14, 2010 will vest on each of the first three anniversary dates following the date of grant.
- (3) One-third of the total number of Restricted Stock Units granted will vest on each of the first three anniversary dates following the date of grant and will be issued in shares of Sonic Corp. common stock on a one-for-one basis, subject to certain restrictions.

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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