| Balius Brian A | | | |
|----------------|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Form 3 | | | |
| May 07, 2012 | | | |
| FORM 3 | UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION | OMB AF | PROVAL |
| | Washington, D.C. 20549 | OMB Number: | 3235-0104 |
| | INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES | Expires: | January 31, 2005 |
| | | Estimated average burden hours per | |
| | Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, | response | 0.5 |
| Ś | 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)

Daling Drien

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <u>*</u> Balius Brian A | | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SAIA INC [SAIA] | | | | |
|--|---------------------|---|--|--|--|--------|---|
| (Last) 11465 JOH | (First) | (Middle) | 04/26/2012 | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | | 5 | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) |
| PARKWA | Y, SUITE | E 400 | (Check all applicable) | | | | |
| JOHNS CR | (Street) EEK, GA | AÂ 30097 | | .e | | ow) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One |
| , i | | | | Reporting Person | | | |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | Table I - N | Non-Deriva | tive Securiti | ies Be | eneficially Owned |
| 1.Title of Sect (Instr. 4) | ırity | | 2. Amount o Beneficially (Instr. 4) | | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | | ture of Indirect Beneficial ership :. 5) |
| Common S | tock | | 11,793 | | D | Â | |
| Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities benefic owned directly or indirectly. | | | cially | SEC 1473 (7-02 | 2) | | |
| | Perso | ons who res mation cont | pond to the collection of ained in this form are no ond unless the form disp | t | | | |

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

currently valid OMB control number.

| 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 | 4. Conversion or Exercise | 5. Ownership Form of | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | | (Instr. 4) | Price of | Derivative | (Instr. 5) |
| | | Title | Derivative Security | Security: Direct (D) | |

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| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | Amount or Number of Shares | | or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Phantom Stock | (2) | (<u>3)</u> | Common Stock | 8,821.318 | \$ <u>(1)</u> | D | Â |
| Stock Options (Right to Buy) | 01/28/2009 | 01/27/2013 | Common Stock | 1,790 | \$ 27.38 | D | Â |
| Stock Options (Right to Buy) | 02/02/2010 | 02/01/2014 | Common Stock | 2,220 | \$ 26.72 | D | Â |
| Stock Options (Right to Buy) | 02/01/2011 | 01/31/2015 | Common Stock | 4,910 | \$ 14.71 | D | Â |
| Stock Options (Right to Buy) | 02/03/2012 | 02/02/2016 | Common Stock | 4,650 | \$ 11.96 | D | Â |
| Stock Options (Right to Buy) | 02/02/2013 | 02/01/2017 | Common Stock | 4,640 | \$ 12.1 | D | Â |
| Stock Options (Right to Buy) | 05/02/2014 | 05/01/2018 | Common Stock | 4,100 | \$ 16.39 | D | Â |
| Stock Options (Right to Buy) | 02/02/2015 | 02/02/2019 | Common Stock | 6,710 | \$ 16.5 | D | Â |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|--|--|
| r e | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | |
| Balius Brian A 11465 JOHNS CREEK PARKWAY SUITE 400 JOHNS CREEK, GA 30097 | Â | Â | VP-Linehaul & Ind Engineering | Â | | |
| Signatures | | | | | | |
| /s/ Stephanie R. 05/0 Maschmeier | 7/2012 | | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).

Date

- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Conversion rate of this derivative security on May 2, 2012 is 0.8472 resulting in 7,473.71 shares of common stock (underlying security in column 7).
- (2) Immediate

**Signature of Reporting Person

(3) The shares of phantom stock become payable, in stock, upon reporting person's termination of service as an employee

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.