MARKEL CORP Form 3 May 25, 2005

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)

1. Name and Address of Reporting

Person *

A Whitt Richard R III

(Last)

(First)

(Middle)

Statement

(Month/Day/Year)

05/23/2005

2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

MARKEL CORP [MKL]

(Check all applicable)

4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

5. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

C/O MARKEL

CORPORATION, Â 4521 HIGHWOODS PARKWAY

(Street)

Director _X__ Officer

10% Owner Other

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting

Person

Form filed by More than One

Reporting Person

GLEN ALLEN. VAÂ 23060

(City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

(give title below) (specify below)

Sr. VP and CFO

1. Title of Security

(Instr. 4)

2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned

(Instr. 4)

3. Ownership Form:

4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)

Direct (D) or Indirect

(I) (Instr. 5)

Common Stock

 $2,325.732 \frac{(1)}{2}$

Â D

Common Stock

1,329,055

Ι 401(K) Plan (2)

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

Conversion

Ownership

6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership

Form of or Exercise (Instr. 5)

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(Instr. 4) Price of Derivative Derivative Security: Date **Expiration Title** Amount or Security Direct (D) Exercisable Number of or Indirect Shares (I) (Instr. 5)

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Whitt Richard R III

C/O MARKEL CORPORATION 4521 HIGHWOODS PARKWAY
GLEN ALLEN, VAÂ 23060

Signatures

Richard R. Whitt

III

**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) Includes 377 restricted stock units granted pursuant to the Markel Corporation Omnibus Incentive Plan, of which 232 units will vest on December 31, 2008 and 145 units will vest on December 31, 2009.
- Holdings under the Markel Corporation 401(K) Plan are reported in units. The information reported herein is based on a plan statement dated as of May 20, 2005 and utilizes the closing stock price on that date of \$343.00 per share. As of May 20, 2005, a unit under the Plan represented one share of Common Stock.

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.

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