

MARKEL CORP  
Form 4  
February 27, 2008

**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 \*  
GAYNER THOMAS SINICKSON

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O MARKEL CORPORATION, 4521 HIGHWOODS PARKWAY

(Street)

GLEN ALLEN, VA 23060

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
MARKEL CORP [MKL]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
02/26/2008

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)  
EVP & Chief Investment 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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)<br>Code V Amount (D) Price                             |   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 02/26/2008                           |  | A <sup>(1)</sup>               | 1,605 A \$ 0  | 27,732.402 <sup>(2)</sup>   | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 2,000   | I  | By Spouse                         |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 2,162.19  | I  | 401(K) Plan <sup>(3)</sup>        |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 446.66  | I  | By Trust                          |

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

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(9-02)

**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. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title                                      | Amount or Number of Shares                                       |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |                                |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                        | Other |
| GAYNER THOMAS SINNICKSON<br>C/O MARKEL CORPORATION<br>4521 HIGHWOODS PARKWAY<br>GLEN ALLEN, VA 23060 |               |           | EVP & Chief Investment Officer |       |

## Signatures

Linda S. Rotz, Attorney-in-fact for Thomas Sinnickson  
Gayner 02/27/2008

\*\*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) Restricted stock units granted pursuant to the Markel Corporation Omnibus Incentive Plan. Restricted stock units will vest on December 31, 2012.
- (2) Includes 5,898 restricted stock units granted pursuant to the Markel Corporation Omnibus Incentive Plan, of which 1,238 units will vest on December 31, 2008, 1,087 units will vest on December 31, 2009, 521 units will vest on December 31, 2010, 1,447 units will vest on December 31, 2011 and 1,605 units will vest on December 31, 2012.
- (3) 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 December 31, 2007 and utilizes the closing stock price on that date of \$491.10 per share. As of 12/31/2007, 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.

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